

Walter Stanborough Sutton



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*I cannot say, and I will not say  
That he is dead. He is just away!  
With a cheery smile and a wave of the hand  
He has wandered into an unknown land  
And left us dreaming how very fair  
It needs must be, since he lingers there,  
And you—oh you, who the wildest yearn  
For the old-time step and the glad return  
Think of him faring on, as dear  
In the love of There, as the love of Here.  
Think of him still as the same, I say,  
He is not dead—he is just away.*

*James Whitcomb Riley.*



WALTER STANBOROUGH SUTTON

APRIL 5, 1877

NOVEMBER 10, 1916

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Mm. B. Sutton  
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## Introduction.

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This little book is a memorial to one whose death was a terrible shock to his professional associates and his friends; a bitter grief to his brothers, whose love for and admiration of him knew no limits and a crushing blow to his mother and father, whose lives were so intertwined with his that life seemed impossible without him. He had been of their household almost forty years. They have no memories of him but of loving kindness. He was ever a joy to his mother's heart and a pride of his father's life. His love for and tenderness towards his mother were beautiful. He never forgot her under any circumstances. What he thought would please her he always did and what he thought might grieve her he always avoided. With his father he was but a younger brother; with his brothers a joyous, affectionate, congenial and helpful companion. In the wider associations of life his highmindedness was a notable characteristic. He was, as was once said of him, a "man with a mind above the smallnesses of human nature." The years, as they proved

*Introduction* the greatness of his abilities, more and more brought out the nobility and simplicity of his nature and emphasized the absence of all the petty and unhappy traits which so often mar the characters of the greatest men.

Walter Stanborough Sutton, son of William Bell and Agnes Black Sutton, was born in Utica, New York, April 5, 1877. He was the fifth successive son and grew into a strong, rugged boy with shy, retiring manners and very sensitive disposition. When he was ten years of age his parents removed to a ranch in Russell County, Kansas, and his next nine years were spent in the country. In the grade and high schools at Russell, from which he was graduated, he was studious and ranked high in his classes. In these early years he manifested a strong mechanical bent; he repaired the farm machines and put them in order for the successive crops, and handled them all with marked skill and success. His interest in photography began when he made his own first camera as a boy on the ranch and he continued to use photography throughout his life, both in his professional work and in his recreations.

He was fond of play and of outdoor sports, loved to celebrate Hallowe'en and Christmas in the old-fashioned way, and with a fine sense of humor heartily joined his brothers in every fun-making prank.

In September, 1896, he enrolled in the School of Engineering of the University of Kansas, at Lawrence. He greatly enjoyed this part of his course and soon became remarkably skillful in the use of tools and the operation of machinery and electrical apparatus and expert as a draftsman.

In June, 1897, at the end of his first year he came home to spend his vacation and brought with him an infection of typhoid fever which developed in a few days and in turn attacked every member of the family. Walter was down first and up first and from the time he was able to move about assumed charge of the others who were ill and continued to do so until the disease was gone. All of the family survived except John, 17 years old, who succumbed to the disease on August 14, 1897. John, beloved of all the family; the one set apart for the service of his country, and whose appointment as a cadet in the Naval Academy at Annapolis, arrived from Washington on the day he was laid away in the Russell cemetery.

Walter's sympathetic, kindly, soothing, encouraging manner and skillful handling of the sick attracted the attention of his family and friends and induced them to urge upon him the study of medicine, which had much to do with his later decision to follow that profession.



## *Introduction*

In August, 1909, having received the degrees of A. B., A. M. and M. D., he began the practice of surgery in Kansas City.

During the thirteen years which elapsed from the time he left home for school until he returned to practice surgery, he never wasted any money provided for his education nor slighted any opportunity to equip himself for his life purpose. He cultivated his body as well as his mind, was fond of athletics and was a powerful and skillful wrestler.

He stood six feet in height and weighed around 215 pounds, his carriage was erect and commanding and his whole personality was magnetic and impressive. His smile was singularly frank, sincere and pleasing. He was a friend maker; he liked people; the simplicity, and sincerity with which he greeted new acquaintances at once aroused their interest in him and wherever he went he bound friends to him with hoops of steel.

He made his home with his parents who had removed to Kansas City, Kan., and they cannot recall a single night, except when out of the city, that he did not sleep under their roof. He was the last of five surviving sons to remain at home. He loved his home and his parents and they loved him, they leaned upon his strong arm and he sustained them lovingly. The fineness of his disposition, often remarked by friends, found its highest



expression in his intercourse with his parents and his brothers and their families. *Introduction*

As the years went by he lived among them modest, unassuming, kindly, cheerful and helpful, always, and they loved him with nothing to detract from the joy of their intimate association. Six more affectionate, harmonious and happy boys never grew up under one roof. Without jealousy or envy or even pique they all rejoiced in any bit of good fortune or success that came to any of them. Their separations were occasions of regret and their reunions were scenes of exuberant happiness.

On Sunday, February 7, 1915, he was invited by wire to join the surgical staff of the Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney Unit of the American Ambulance Hospital for three months' service at Juilly, France, and was advised that the ship which carried the staff would sail from New York that week. He was given leave of absence by the Board of Administration and the faculty of the University of Kansas as he was associate professor of surgery in the medical school and attached to Bell Memorial Hospital, at Rosedale. He joined the staff in New York and was absent nearly six months, during the last two of which he was "Medicin-Chef" that is chief of the surgical staff of the hospital and in sole charge of its entire work.

When he returned he brought with him a

*Introduction* large collection of photographs of landscapes, buildings, war scenes, groups of soldiers, wounds and hospital scenes, which he had made himself. These pictures, first exhibited to friends in his own home, aroused so much interest that many requests were made upon him for public exhibitions in the interest of charitable and church work. He responded to as many of these as his time would permit, accompanying each of about fifty exhibitions, with a lecture of explanation, and all with no pecuniary reward to himself.

After his return from France his professional engagements pressed upon him, and he gave himself to their demands without stint. Soon after this he had his first premonitions of a troublesome appendix and in the last months of his life it made great inroads upon his health. His step was not so elastic, he looked and was oftener tired, and the shadow of the ordeal he knew was coming was oftener seen in the seriousness of his expression and his more earnest and persistent devotion to his work. Only a few days before he went to the hospital he had signed a contract with a publishing house to write a book on surgery which he meant should be the crowning work of his life, and he was engaged in fitting up commodious offices better suited to his professional demands and the writing and illus-

trating of his book, the drawings for which *Introduction* he intended to make himself.

On Monday evening, November 6, he came home early very tired and worn and soon went to bed. Between 12 and 1 o'clock he was called out to an emergency case and returned about 4 o'clock. He was up again at 6, went to Bell Memorial Hospital where he performed two operations and then to the Christian Church Hospital where he operated again. He reached his office about 12 o'clock completely exhausted and ill. An examination indicated an acute attack of appendicitis with alarming symptoms and after a consultation of surgeons an immediate operation was decided upon and he was taken to the Christian Church Hospital of whose staff he was a member. It was suggested that the operation be postponed, in the hope that he would be better prepared for it, but he insisted that it be performed at once, and it was performed about 3:30 p. m.

During three days of suffering and peril he received the zealous and skilled attention of the whole surgical and medical staff of the hospital and the faithful untiring service of the nurses. No means were spared, nothing that surgical skill, wisdom and experience could suggest was left untried, but it was all in vain, and on Friday, November 10, about 9:30 p. m., he passed away. He met

*Introduction* his fate with the same calm courage with which he faced all the important issues of his life, and went out into the great hereafter unafraid.

## FUNERAL SERVICES.





FROM THE GAZETTE-GLOBE, KANSAS CITY, KANSAS,  
NOVEMBER 13, 1916.

## SCIENCE PAYS TRIBUTE TO WALTER SUTTON.

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MANY PROFESSIONAL MEN AND EDUCATORS  
AT THE FUNERAL SERVICE.

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**The Young Surgeon Eulogized by Professors of Four  
American Universities, Who Told of His Scientific  
Discoveries, His Work for Humanity and His  
Manly Qualities.**

Deans of science in four of America's great universities joined with the medical and surgical professions and sorrowing friends yesterday afternoon in paying tribute to the genius and personality of Dr. Walter S. Sutton, who died Friday night in the Christian Church Hospital in Kansas City, Mo.

First Presbyterian Church of this city, in which the service began at 3 o'clock, was crowded from the altar in the main auditorium to the last row in the gallery and many were standing, unable to find seats. In the gathering were many from Kansas City, Mo., Lawrence and Topeka. Banked about the pulpit around the casket and throughout the entire front part of the church were more than one

*Funeral Services* hundred floral offerings, many of them great massive pieces, testifying the love and high esteem of friends, fraternities, societies and professional associates.

While the vast assemblage was forming Miss Helen Palmer, at the organ, played a medley of sacred hymns, and Miss Clara Duval sang, "Lead Kindly Light."

The impressive service began with the reading of scripture by the Rev. A. G. Pearson of Independence, Mo., formerly of this city. The Rev. William Foulkes of the Grandview Park Presbyterian Church offered prayer and the Rev. Robert E. Maclean, pastor of the Washington Boulevard M. E. Church, preached the funeral discourse.



Rev. Wm. Foulkes, D. D.

Pastor Grandview Park Presbyterian Church,  
Kansas City, Kansas,

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INVOCATION.

Almighty and All Gracious God our Father, we come into Thy presence, humbly and reverently seeking Thy blessing; tearfully, yet confidently resting in Thy promise and in the assurance Thou hast given us, for our comfort and for our hope, in these blessed words to which we have listened from Thy Holy Book.

Very thoughtfully we come into Thy presence, oh Father, for Thou hast come very near to us. Thou art speaking to us in that still, small voice that comes to every heart; telling us of our frailty; telling us that we are but pilgrims and strangers, that we tarry here but for a day, that we know not when the time is in which Thou wilt come and call us hence. Prepare us, each and all, we beseech Thee, our Father, for that day. Grant that when the call comes, we shall be found prepared to enter into the rest Thou has prepared for us.

We are surrounded today, our Father, with mystery. We are in the dark. We cannot see; we do not understand why, in Thy

*Rev. Wm. Foulkes* Providence Thou hast come and taken from us one, so honored, one so useful, one so beloved, and has left many who are a burden rather than a help, in the administration of the affairs of Thy kingdom among men. But that which is mysterious to us today, our Father, we believe will be made clear by and by, and that the time is coming when we shall see and shall understand, as we cannot now, why in Thy wisdom and in Thy love Thou hast dealt thus with us.

We come, our Father, praising Thee for the great salvation Thou hast provided for us in the Son of Thy love, in Jesus Christ, Who came down from above to suffer and die for us; Who ascended on high and ever liveth to make intercession for us; Who sympathizes tenderly with all His followers in their trials and in their tribulations. We thank Thee that He brought life and immortality to light, and that we have His inspiring words: "I am the Resurrection and the Life, he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

We praise Thee, O God, for this hope of immortality which is graciously given to us. We thank Thee that today we mourn, not as those without hope, but that we have that hope, sure and steadfast, that those whom Thou dost call from among us, are entered

into rest and dwell in the presence of their *Rev. Wm.*  
Lord. *Foulkes*

We thank Thee, our Father, for this dear brother. We bless Thee for his influence, for his thoughtfulness, his cheerfulness and kindness; and although he has gone to his rest and reward, we know, our Father, that his influence is perennial, that it will abide with us, and not only with this generation, but that it shall be carried on into other generations yet unborn.

We thank Thee for his example, for his fellowship, and, although we mourn his loss today, although as friends and associates in various circles we are gathered together to pay him our last loving tribute of respect and honor, yet, our Father, we are encouraged and comforted in the fact that his influence abides with us.

We pray now for Thy blessing upon these services; upon the Word that has been read; upon the prayers which ascend here to Thy throne of Heavenly grace; upon the songs of this hour and the words that shall be spoken, that we may all go hence resolved anew that we will do well our part in life, and that with new diligence we will endeavor to serve Thee in this our day and generation, so that when we are called, we may have the assurance that it is well with us.

In a special manner, we invoke Thy bless-

*Rev. Wm. Foulkes* ing upon those who are especially afflicted in this sorrowful dispensation. Vouchsafe Thy blessing upon the men gathered here from various quarters and various avocations; as they think of the one with whom they formerly associated, may it be the loving wish of their hearts, that they reproduce in their own lives the virtues and excellencies which were manifest in the life of him whose death today we mourn.

Bless the Church thus bereaved of one of its members, that others may arise to fill the vacancies in these broken ranks, that the Spirit of the Lord may abide here for the comfort of those who remain, and that their number and their influence for good may grow more and more.

Very tenderly, very lovingly we bring to Thee, oh Thou Gracious Father, the family upon whom especially at this time, rests the heavy weight of this bereavement and loss. Grant that these afflicted ones may find One today, "as an hiding place in the time of storm and as a covert from the tempest, as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great Rock in a weary land." Bless them with Thy presence, oh God, and bestow upon them abundantly of the consolation that is in Jesus Christ. Be with the father and mother, with the brothers and sisters, and with all the loved ones, and grant that they may be able



to say in this the day of their trial, "God is *Rev. Wm.*  
our Refuge and Strength"; and may we all *Foulkes*  
have in us anew today more strongly than ever  
before that hope of immortality that is  
brought to us through our Lord and Saviour,  
Jesus Christ; and when at last these ties, one  
by one, shall be severed, when these relations,  
so dear and tender shall be broken asunder,  
may we be gathered into that rest that re-  
maineth for the Children of God; above the  
darkness, above the clouds and storms, in that  
home of our Lord, Who hath gone to pre-  
pare for us a place where there is no sorrow,  
where there is no sickness, no separation, no  
pain, no death; and so shall we ever be with  
the Lord. And to God, the Father, the Son  
and ever blessed Spirit shall be all our praise,  
world without end. Amen.

## Robert E. Maclean, D. D.

Pastor Washington Avenue M. E. Church,  
Kansas City, Kansas.

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*“None of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.”—Romans 14:7.*

### “PERSONAL INFLUENCE.”

The occasion requires that what is said, by me, shall be brief. Some are here from abroad who have known Dr. Sutton in an intimate and personal way, in the work and institutions with which he was connected in his brief but busy life. These shall speak, out of full hearts, some words of tribute to his memory at the close of this address. I shall confine myself, therefore, briefly as I may, to a few considerations on “Personal Influence,” as I think appropriate to this occasion, from Paul’s words in Romans 14:7, “None of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.”

Some one has said that the three greatest subjects for human study are God, man, and the relations between them. That must be

so, for what indeed is outside of these? To *Robert E. Maclean* think of life without God is to get lost in its myriad aspects, as a man drifting on some vast, pitiless ocean, without compass or pole-star; but to think of God as he is revealed to us in the Holy Scriptures, and of man not only the crown and glory of his wonderful handiwork but as entering into copartnership as fellow workers with Him, on high and holy levels in all the wonderful work of life, is one of the divinest conceptions that could occupy human intelligence.

Men have sometimes become enamoured of the seemingly transcendent glory of the material world, that lies so wonderfully about them, that the real significance and glory of our human life have been lost to them. What a pity! Life takes on its real significance only when you relate it in terms of real responsibility to God, and out of that relationship we come to understand the meaning of the impact of life upon life.

That gives not only safe anchorage to life, but purpose and relationship that exalt all life into terms infinite and eternal. Paul seeks to teach that here. Not merely the recognition that every life touches other life for weal or woe, but that this life of which he speaks is so inwrought, so related to the redemptive purposes of Christ in the world that it becomes a question of infinitely more

*Robert E. Maclean* worth to us than the mere matter of whether we live or die.

One human life lifting some other human life out of the deep, is a sight of beautiful human interest, but its full and divine significance does not appear until we see both climb up "God's altar stairs," and we are made to see that he who lifts his brother from the deep is like unto the Son of God in human form divine. That is something that makes life worth while, and spells out for us in words of simple form the purpose and meaning of life. It reveals that the greatest opportunities of life come to men in connection with, and in service to their fellows. They who truly love God the most must prove it by loving his other children best. "Not everyone who says 'Lord! Lord!' shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of the Father which is in heaven."

When God made the worlds, and the glory of them, we were not there. When he laid the foundations of the great mountains He did not ask help of us. He pencils the glories of the sunset upon the western sky, and paints the gold and silver upon the butterfly's wing, and infinite wonders more, without considering us; but when He looks upon the race which He has made in His own image steeped in wretchedness and sin, God becomes suppliant upon the highway of life, stopping you and



me in passionate endeavor to interest us in the *Robert E.*  
holy work of service to our fellows. And *Maclean*  
that we might not overlook the vast importance of even the smallest of such service He said that a cup of cold water given in His Name should not by any means lose its reward; and that when men do any good, even unto the least, they do it unto Him.

When we think of Dr. Sutton's life, with these exalted thoughts of the Scriptures in mind, how full and beautiful it seems. The automobile accident which broke the limb of our young son, lately, brought Dr. Sutton into our home, and into our hearts, in a way that revealed the splendid proportions of the man. His charm was such that one could speak of him in terms that would seem as fulsome flattery to those who did not know him. His every attitude had the hallmark of the gentleman; so strong, and able, and even brilliant, with fame persistently knocking at his door, and yet possessing a nature beautifully gentle and simple.

Many physicians are here today to do honor to his memory. Permit a layman, in this presence, to say just a word to you. Of all the professions, perhaps none is so high and holy as yours, unless you will permit the exception of the call to the sacred ministry of Jesus Christ. Your coming into our homes, many times, is as the coming of one of God's

*Robert E. Maclean* strong angels: You come to help us unloose the icy grip of Death from the life pulses of our loved ones. At such times we are desperately human; and there is nothing so comforting to us in such an hour as a little of the human touch in you. In Dr. Sutton, gentlemen, we had the embodiment of sympathy and brotherliness. And whatever may be our profession it might be well to remember that the men whom the ages will never let die have been men of great heart and sympathy.

Dr. MacLure, the doctor of the Old School, that great rugged soul whom Ian Maclaren has immortalized for us, was uncouth on the outside but every man and woman in Glen Urtach knew that no winter's storm that ever blew across the Scottish Highlands could keep the old doctor from a poor sick woman's bedside in the most remote corner of the glen. You remember he walked with a limp in his latter life, for he had broken his leg one terrible winter's night when he fell from the back of his faithful Jess, while they battled through the snow-drifts, and just because a sick woman's cry had reached him on the wings of the raging storm! How glad we are to feel that such bigness of heart, and courage, have ever been characteristic of the best traditions of your profession. Those of you who knew Dr. Sutton know that he glorified your profession in just that way. But there was

no rough exterior to this man, and none of you *Robert E. Maclean* ever had occasion to excuse him to his fellows for lack of grace or of manners. He was big enough to be humble and considerate, and at all times the gentleman. None could mistake in emulating him in this.

When Europe was first deluged in her present cataclysm of carnage, and cries for help came from all her terrible battlefields and hospitals, it was not only a tribute to his rising fame that men in high authority turned to Dr. Sutton for help, but it was also a fine tribute to his greatness of heart that these piteous cries found ready response in his great nature. Doubtless some of you suspect that in this case life may have been given for life, but that is the way this old world "is bound by golden chains about the feet of God"; for none of us liveth to himself and no man dieth to himself.

It is good to know that death cannot arrest the influence of a great and good life. The good that men do lives after them. Neither is that good measured by mere length of days. The greatest life the world has ever known died on a Roman cross when He was about thirty-three years of age, and among the last words that fell from His gracious lips were those that declared that His life was a finished one. And it was. Out from that life

*Robert E. Maclean* have flowed all the redemptive forces that are redeeming the world.

Let us believe that true of our friend lying peacefully here. His may be a life just as complete, and finished, as he who fills out the measure of his three-score years and ten; and perhaps much more so. It must be true. God will take the unending ages to perfect that which he had but begun here. Let us lay that comfort to our hearts; and may it come as comfort, also, to these our dear friends whose grief is not of those who have no hope, but just the common human sorrow which finds infinite response in the heart of the divine Christ who so freely and tenderly mingled his tears with those whose hearts were broken with just such loss as is ours, and theirs, today.

We confidently believe that to many of us life will be fuller, and diviner, because of this great life that went out and in amongst us, and was taken away, seemingly, when it had but begun. Thus Dr. Walter S. Sutton will have neither lived nor died in vain.



## Olin Templin

Dean of College of Liberal Arts and Sciences,  
University of Kansas.

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From the day Walter Sutton entered the University of Kansas he was a marked man. His fellow students, as well as the faculty, who had the privilege of having him in their classes, recognized him as unusual in the degree he possessed a number of admirable traits. He had good humor; he had wit; he was sincere; he had personal charm; he was companionable. These traits shone out on the first day as on the last of his career as a student and they were appreciated by all.

But it soon became evident that he possessed much more substantial qualities. He was industrious; he shrank from no task; he left none unfinished; he was resourceful. When there was no way of doing a thing, he made one. He loved the truth as such, and most of all when it lay still in the realm of the undiscovered. He possessed in unlimited measure that most precious of virtues, intellectual honesty. He could not think in a

*Olin Templin* crooked manner, whatever reward might lie at the end of such a course. While he would not deceive others, he could not deceive himself, as many men can do so easily. So, it happened that in the most natural way, the University came to regard him as an extraordinary student. His University expected much of him, and he never disappointed her. When, therefore, he had been graduated and had gone away and got the training he could not get at home, nothing could be more appropriate than that the University should turn to him for his help in its great task, and in these later days as teacher, as in the earlier days as student, he has been competent and faithful, and no one has been surprised. It was always taken as a matter of course that whatever the situation and whatever the circumstances, Walter Sutton would prove sufficient—would be confident and faithful.

Whenever perplexities regarding policy have arisen, his wisdom and good sense have often shown the right way. When there has been division of counsel concerning standards, his voice has been for the better thing. When there have been unpleasant deeds to be done, he did not shrink from doing much more than his share of them. When others have grown discouraged, his very presence has been an inspiration, and now that he has gone, men look anxiously into each others

faces and wonder how things can go on with- *Olin Templin*  
out him.

Walter Sutton was a rare man as student,  
as friend, as teacher, as colleague, as leader.  
He was, I say, a rare man, rare, indeed.

## Samuel W. Williston, Ph. D., M. D.

Professor of Paleontology,  
University of Chicago.

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It was in the autumn of 1898 that I first learned to know Walter Sutton well. We were then organizing a medical department of the University of Kansas, of which I was then a member, and after many tribulations, had founded the department of anatomy. Walter had been a student for two years in the University, and I had heard my colleague and former student, Professor C. E. McClung, speak of him favorably. Material for dissection had at last been secured from a neighboring city, and I well remember the exciting time when the students gathered to begin work upon it in my laboratory. Walter was among them. He had been in my class for some weeks in human anatomy, but I did not know him really well till we began work in the laboratory.

His zeal, intelligence and interest from the beginning made him a marked member of my classes. Through all that winter, in and out



of the class room, I found that I could count *Samuel W.*  
upon him always, he was always dependable. *Williston*  
In the class room I knew that he would always  
answer my questions intelligently. Outside  
he was always a good fellow. My heart  
warmed to him as to few young men in those  
years. But I heard many things of him be-  
side from my colleague, Professor McClung,  
in whom he had also struck a responsive chord  
because of his love and zeal for science. He  
told me of his deep interest in cytological  
work, and when, after his graduation he had  
departed out of the immediate circle of my  
students, I sympathized in his ambitions. He  
had become so deeply interested in the study  
of the cell, with his friend Professor McClung,  
that he desired to continue it. There was  
but one place for him to go, Columbia Uni-  
versity, New York, with Professor E. B. Wil-  
son. Years before Professor Wilson and I  
had been fellow students at Yale University.  
I knew not only his great and just fame as a  
scientific man, but I knew him also as a  
friend, and felt free to write him in Walter's  
behalf as I could not have done to a mere  
acquaintance. I told him that, of all the stu-  
dents I had ever had in my classes, there  
was none who, intellectually and personally,  
reminded me so forcibly of an old friend of  
mine, whose name was E. B. Wilson, and I  
felt sure that he would be grateful to me for

*Samuel W. Williston* introducing him. There was nothing I could have said that expressed more forcibly my opinion of him at that time, a young man just beginning his career who was destined to achieve a prominent place among scholars. How truthful my opinion was, Professor Willson will say for himself. He has told me more than once how glad he was to receive such a student. Only a teacher can tell the joy he has in guiding and advising such young men as Walter Sutton.

It was about this time, however, that Walter had begun to have doubts as to what career he should follow in life. No young man can justly, no young man should decide what his work in life is to be until his vision has been broadened, until he knows from experience for what his natural tastes and talents are best adapted. By advice he had started to prepare for the profession of engineering; his love for pure science had drawn him toward medicine. Could he find his future in that profession, or should he restrict himself still further to pure science? He came to me for advice in his doubts. My sympathies were with him, for I, too, had had the same doubts. I, too, had begun my life as a civil engineer; the same doubts had troubled me and I had chosen the profession of medicine, only to relinquish its practice later for scientific investigation. I felt my responsibility

and pondered over it not a little. I was then *Samuel W.*  
ambitious to found a medical school which *Williston*  
should have the ideals of pure science for  
its base.

Perhaps my vision for the future of medicine in our country was a little rosy for the time, but I thought and think not. I felt confident that a new epoch was opening in the profession of medicine, one in which the real scientist would be in greater demand than he had been under the methods then fast growing obsolete. I felt sure that in a few years such men as Walter Sutton would be sought for, for research in the medical sciences. I have always been profoundly glad that I chose the profession, at my time almost the only road to science open to young men. I had seen how great was the need for more investigation in the sciences underlying the profession. How great the need for just such men as I felt sure Walter Sutton would be. And so I advised him to go on and finish his medical studies. I told him I thought he would find a happier and more useful life as a teacher and investigator in the medical sciences than in anything else, that the world was then awakening to the need and that his future would be assured. Some of my friends have reproached me for this advice; reproached me because there was lost to the science of biology, a man who would have



*Samuel W. Williston* been a leader. But I have never regretted that I so advised him.

My confidence in him has never wavered. Could he have been spared even a few more years, I think all would have agreed that his choice was wise. He was a model of the men the University of Kansas needed in its medical school, and he would have given to his Alma Mater the loyalty of a true man and investigator. I knew that the papers he published in cytology made him a marked man, and full of promise for the future, but I also knew that there were just as many fields for cultivation in his immediate profession, and that he was ploughing them deeply. I have followed his career since those days fifteen years ago with intense interest. I stopped to see him on every occasion that I could, and he told me of his ambitions and his hopes. Of his struggles, but never of discouragements, and it was only a few months ago that he told me of what he was trying to do.

But Walter Sutton had already won an enduring name in his profession and in his science. His reputation had already extended far beyond the confines of his city. He was looked upon as a man who was coming, who had already come. The next ten years would have extended his fame to the furthest corners of the world. I may be asked what there was about Walter Sutton that made all his

friends, and especially all his teachers believe in him so confidently. It is difficult to analyze anyone's motives and intimate character but first of all I would ascribe to Walter zeal and enthusiasm, together with large ability and conscientiousness. But better yet he was well balanced with an underlying sense of the fitness of things. Above all, I would place his personal qualities. I can not say just why we all liked him, but we did. He was a man, in the best sense a good fellow, tactful, sensible, kindly, considerate, unselfish. A dear friend has gone, one whom I had confidently thought would outlive and remember me many years as an old friend who loved him.

*Samuel W.  
Williston*

## Dr. S. J. Crumbine.

Dean of the School of Medicine,  
University of Kansas.

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What I had intended to say has already been said in a much better way than I could say it, so I must content myself with repeating very largely some of the things for which we loved this dear young man.

After completing his education in the University of Kansas and securing his bachelor's and master's degrees, he completed his medical education in Columbia University, serving with distinction in the Roosevelt Hospital; then he turned his face to the state of his adoption to take up his life work. His work as a student was to gain an insight into the hidden mysteries of disease. His initiative and particularly his unusual aptitude as a teacher early marked him as a leader among his colleagues, and because of his early and thorough training in the medical sciences, and because of his peculiar aptitude as a teacher he was early chosen as an associate professor of surgery in the School of Medicine

of the University of Kansas, which position he *Dr. S. J.*  
has held up to the present, filling it with *Crumbine*  
great credit to himself and honor to the school.

How splendidly he served the University, and through it the people of the state everybody knows, and today he has a clientele scattered all over this broad state, who, with us, are mourning his early taking off and the abrupt close of his most promising career. It was not at all uncommon to hear of late years that this brilliant young man was destined to be one of the leading members of his profession in surgery and already that place is accorded to him in many circles.

When the great war broke out in Europe Doctor Sutton heard the call of service, and the high character of his distinguished service at home was early recognized there, for he was placed in an important position of honor and trust.

Doctor Sutton was an ideal type of the altruistic, scientific American physician and surgeon, and so recognized among us, his college associates, and he was equally highly honored among his colleagues in the profession. We miss you, Doctor Walter, and we miss you, dear friend, as the days come and go. We, your colleagues, have assembled here today to mingle our grief with that of your beloved family and your closest friends. But your splendid zeal for scientific attainments,



*Dr. S. J. Crumbine* your intense devotion to the exacting duties of your chosen profession, your loyalty to your Alma Mater, and, especially and above all, your cheerful, sunny, cordial disposition and personality and your abounding good fellowship will be cherished remembrances during the years that are to come. Good bye, Doctor Walter, Good bye."



## J. W. Perry.

President Christian Church Hospital Association,  
Kansas City, Missouri.

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It is such a privilege to have known and to have been associated with Doctor Walter Sutton.

His life was the realization of "that better part" of our being, and only in the pages of "sacred Scripture" may we find words to express our thoughts of him in this sacred hour:

"Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hands to do it."

—Proverbs 3:27.

This was the living motto of Walter Sutton.

It seems appropriate that I make a statement regarding the activities of Dr. Sutton in connection with the establishment and conduct of the Christian Church Hospital, which is the last work of his professional career, he having been on duty within a few hours of his last illness.

*J. W. Perry*

As beginners in such work, knowing nothing of the details or organization or the conduct of a hospital, the Board of the Christian Church Hospital sought counsel and advice of those whom we felt to be best qualified in the medical profession, and those in whom we could most surely place our trust. While in this work I enjoyed the professional confidence of Dr. Sutton, yet our feelings toward each other had grown beyond that of fellow workers to that of comradeship and friendship. In seeking advice in our work we were told on every hand to look to Dr. Sutton as one most competent to guide us and as the one most willing to give of his time and talents to the upbuilding of our cause.

Through many years of hard study and close application, with an ideal in view, he had become an authority, recognized by the leaders in his profession, and had he been spared to us longer his usefulness to the world would have been universally acknowledged.

In our investigation of the proposed membership of our hospital staff we found that Dr. Sutton was recognized and appreciated by his associates. The fellow members of the medical fraternity, without exception, had a good word to say of his professional ability and character. He was truthful, honest, capable and sincere in all things. No words

of commendation were longer needed, now that *J. W. Perry* we knew the man.

Dr. Sutton was also recognized by his superiors, his teachers, many of whom well remember him and today count his death a distinct loss to the medical profession. As evidence of his standing among the leaders of his profession were the repeated calls coming to him from sources that threw out opportunities far beyond his reach here in his home city, and yet he chose the better part, a home with his parents and with you, his friends.

Dr. Sutton also stood the real test of success in his profession, that of getting results—results secured in the proper way, and the accomplished desire to leave something more in the world than he received from it.

He left with his patients the feeling of confidence and trust, of absolute sincerity.

Dr. Sutton was hard at work on plans for the betterment of our work, and we are now facing a severe loss by reason of his death before the completion of our organization. Our confidence in his ability and his judgment and our belief in his loyalty to us would have made his plans our plans

Dr. Sutton was eminently endowed with the things that make a man great among his fellow men, a splendid body, an educated and well disciplined mind, a resolute will and character. It seems strange that one so full

*J. W. Perry* of promise, so useful, so well beloved, should be taken from us in all the bloom of his manhood, and at the threshold of such notable achievement in his life's work. It is hard to understand why it should be so, and only our faith in an All Wise Providence will reconcile us to this condition. His loss deprives our hospital of one of our most competent helpers and science of one of its most promising men. Of what he has already accomplished the men of this and future generations will be the beneficiaries; this is his reward, and the only compensation that was prized by him—service to his fellow man.

We should, however, be grateful for his having been with us thus far. The example of his character, his kindness and good will for all, will be helpful to us as long as we live.

Through him I have learned some of the most sacred things of life, and I shall always cherish his memory.

My experience with Dr. Sutton has been many sided: professional, in which I found him competent; as a friend he was loyal and true; as an associate worker in our hospital, in which I found him well advised and helpful. We shall miss his wise counsel, his sincere words of encouragement and advice. We shall miss his hand clasp and cheerful smile, but we shall not soon miss his influence in our



lives, and we will never cease to cherish his *J. W. Perry* memory as a sacred trust. This is my tribute to a friend.

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Telegrams of condolence and appreciation were read. Miss Duval sang "Sometime We'll Understand," and the services closed with the benediction.

The final resting place of the body is in the family division of the mausoleum in Oak Hill Cemetery at Lawrence, Kansas.





## APPRECIATIONS.







## Frank Strong, Ph. D.

Chancellor University of Kansas.

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Walter Stanborough Sutton entered the Engineering School of the University of Kansas from Russell, Kansas, September 9, 1896. His preparatory work was done at the Russell High School. His courses at Russell contained but little science, being limited to physics and physical geography. The science work in high schools at that time was not well developed. In mathematics he finished solid geometry apparently with the idea that he would become an engineer. Perhaps the fact that there was no work offered in biological science, in which he afterward distinguished himself, deceived him as to what should be his chosen field.

When he entered the School of Engineering in September, 1896, he chose electrical engineering as the type of work he desired. His scholarship as shown by the records was excellent; but evidently experience soon showed him that the work he was interested in especially was not engineering. Therefore, after taking one full year in the School of Engineering he transferred to the College of



*Frank Strong* Liberal Arts, then called the School of Arts, in September, 1897, and graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts June 6, 1900.

His bent of mind had begun to make itself felt. The transcript of his grades shows that courses in biological science began to appear and grow in number as he advanced in his college work. As an evidence of this it is worthy of note that botany, zoology, histology, embryology, anatomy, toxicology, bacteriology, cytology, entomology, physiology and chemistry were the basis of his work. That his scholarship standing was excellent and that his capacity for original research and investigation was recognized is well shown by the fact that he was chosen to the scholarship fraternity of Phi Beta Kappa and afterwards to the scientific fraternity of Sigma Xi.

In September, 1900, Dr. Sutton entered the Graduate School and was at the same time appointed graduate assistant in zoology for one year. He received the degree of Master of Arts June 5, 1901. From the University of Kansas he went to Columbia University, New York, on a fellowship in zoology and did there work of high order, his publications especially receiving large notice and still being quoted as authority. While in Columbia he transferred his allegiance from zoology to medicine and entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York City, from which he re-



ceived his degree of Doctor of Medicine. After *Frank Strong* his course in medicine was finished and he had received his degree he was appointed assistant professor of surgery in the University of Kansas to have charge of the surgical service at the North End Dispensary, then under the control of the School of Medicine of the University of Kansas, the time of the appointment being September 30, 1909. On June 16, 1911, he was promoted to an associate professorship of surgery, the term of service as associate professor to begin September 1 of the same year. In February, 1915, he was granted leave of absence for the remainder of the school year in order to accept service as a member of the surgical staff and do advanced work in the American Ambulance Hospital in Juilly, France, and in May, 1915, his leave of absence was still further extended. Dr. Sutton rendered signal service to humanity in France and his lectures and talks upon his views of the European war proved to be of great interest to his friends at home.

Of very especial value was his work in orthopedic surgery and his intense interest in crippled children. Visits to his dispensary at the Bell Memorial Hospital, Rosedale, made it clear to the writer that Dr. Sutton was an unselfish lover of his kind, anxious to do real service to humanity. His mastery of his profession and his skill as an operator are well

*Frank Strong* known to all who have given attention to his work, both at the University of Kansas and elsewhere. He continued his research work in connection with his professional duties and his publications by reason of their great excellence added to his reputation and that of the University which he loved.

Dr. Sutton was a man of high character, a gentleman of fine standards of life, an excellent companion and friend, a great promoter of good feeling and a stimulator of the ambition of others.

## C. E. McClung.

Professor of Zoology, University of Pennsylvania,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

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In the fall of 1897 a young instructor in the University of Kansas was one day very busy in preparation for his first lecture before his first class. Things had not gone altogether well and some charts yet required their finishing touches when class time arrived and the students began to wander into the laboratory. Among these was a tall, slender youth, who, seeing the instructor's obvious difficulty, detached himself from his fellows and approached the perturbed teacher with an offer to lend a hand in finishing the work. As student and instructor, Walter Sutton, and I thus became acquainted, and the fellowship and co-operation which characterized our introduction, and which ever after continued, soon wiped out any such artificial distinctions as tend to separate students and faculty. It is not common for me to remember details of this sort, but I recall as though it were but yesterday his statements that the drawing was easy for him since he had just entered the

*C.E. McClung* college from the engineering school, and that his purpose was to study medicine later. For that reason he desired to undertake the work in histology which I was offering alone for the first time. The gentle dignity and quiet voice of the boy at once attracted me to him and when the ordeal of the lecture was over and the students gone the memory of him remained with me. Soon we were friends and, since I was myself a beginner, fellow-workers. Together we worked and played and the following four years of my Kansas University experience are largely filled with pictures of Sutton in one activity or another.

Characteristically he could not be content until I had visited him at home to meet his father and mother, of whom he so often spoke, and finally I was able to accept his cordial invitation. After that I knew and understood him better, for, in the intimacy of the home, which I often invaded, his traits and character revealed themselves much more clearly than elsewhere. On the last of these occasions, during the Christmas season a year ago, once more I sat in the family circle and listened to the same Walter—no longer a slender youth, but a man full grown in the image of his father; no longer an inexperienced beginner in general biology, but a leader in the humanitarian field of surgery—telling of his stay in war-torn France and of his efforts to apply



the alleviations of biological science in those places where the agencies of other sciences were devoted to destruction. *C.E. McClung*

Between the first and last of these visits with Walter in his home many things happened and it is a pleasant task to make record of such as came under my notice during his stay at Kansas from the years 1897 to 1901. Many pictures present themselves to mind when I recall this period of my life, and in them my friend and student plays a large part. This was a time when the zoology department was undergoing an evolution through a complicated process of elimination and accretion, of movement from room to room and from one building to another. I distinctly recall one of these peregrinations which carried the department to the old chemistry building, during which move Walter and I carried the entire material assets of the department in two trays. In these quarters we remained during the rest of his stay at Lawrence and here we shared one small room which was dignified by the name of "office." Two windows opened into the room and through one light was shed upon problems of *Brachystola* and through the other upon the conditions in *Hippiscus* and its kind. We shared equipment and when that failed we manufactured our own. Upon my microscope now there is a part which the recent convert from

*C.E. McClung* the engineering profession manufactured for me in the shops he had deserted. A failure in the gas supply and pressing need for heat led the ready and inventive embryo biologist to make use of a convenient incandescent lamp for melting paraffin—a means which we have always since used with great satisfaction.

In time there was need for an assistant in the department and, in the most natural way, Walter became helper as well as friend and student. His letters, written in the summer preceding his formal employment as a member of the faculty, are full of questions regarding the proper preparation he should make and of enthusiastic accounts of the collections he was accumulating for study and demonstration purposes. We kept in very close touch during vacations and his letters are as unconventional and breezy as the western prairies upon which he toiled through the long summer days. A blotch of ink deposited on the letter head near "Billy McKinley (t), 2:23" is described as the "solid matter of an entire weep" resulting from some tale of woe I had written and thus condensed by "the weather which is so hot and dry that a crying spell yields but a single drop." A hasty note is excused on the plea that "like the Irishman's laugh when being pursued by an infuriated bull—if I don't get it out now I may never get it."



Other things than letters came to me from *C.E. McClung* Russell. Excited by the discovery of the "lubber hopper" and in response to my urgent request for a sample, Walter mailed me a live animal, which, arriving in my absence from home, created consternation in the family by knocking off the glass top of the box in which it was placed and taking possession of the house. This specimen I took to Lawrence and, upon the discovery of the excellent character of the material, I wrote urging him to get as much as possible. In response I received a letter from him in which is the following statement which proved prophetic: "From what you say of the 'immensus' I infer that the gentleman's cells are about the largest that have ever been discovered, and if they are so our department may derive a little fame from that fact." There is no laboratory of any size in the world where *Brachystola*, the "immensus," is not known because of what Walter discovered in his cells. No occasion for collecting was lost and our horizon was greatly widened by the extensive series of specimens which he secured, many of them being taken while riding the "header box." Even at night he did not neglect to take what came to him and in one of his letters I find an account of the capture of a specimen in these words: "The last time I reached for an offender it turned out to be a *Hippiscus*

*C.E. McClung* nymph and it behooves me to save him as they are scarce. Under the heading of 'Habitat' he will have this entry on the card: 'Lumbar-region of W.S.S. two inches to right of interspace between first and second vertebrae.'

School at length began again and Walter had his first experience as a teacher. My suggestion that he exercise some care for the first week and not become tired from overwork in the laboratory was scornfully met by the statement that any one inured to labor in the harvest fields would not mind a little thing like teaching two hours a day. Experience soon taught him a different conception of the effort involved in teaching, for he did not spare himself and the end of the week found a very tired but happy boy. He enjoyed teaching and was very successful at it and I never had better help. There was plenty of work to do, but time for play remained and the game that caught our fancy was basket ball, then being introduced by its originator, Doctor Naismith. There were faculty class tournaments and we both "made our teams," some years playing against each other and later on the same team. With the establishment of the 'varsity team Walter, with Will, was chosen as a member and acquitted himself with credit. On this team another member of my first cytology class, Emley, played. He, like Walter, later became a physician, a mem-

ber of the medical faculty and the victim of a disease from which he protected others but could not save himself. *C.E. McClung*

There came a time also when a decision had to be made whether Walter was to join a fraternity or not. Fortunately it came late in his stay at the University and although he joined the distraction did not affect his work or change his attitude toward his fellows in the laboratory.

Walter's last year at Kansas University was spent as a graduate student and he was my first. We were very busy investigating the many specimens collected during the summers and I finally suggested a division of the work in order that we might more rapidly acquaint ourselves with the process we were studying. His contribution later appeared under the title, "The spermatogonial divisions in *Brachystola magna*," an excellent and careful study which served as his Master's thesis and recommended him to Professor Wilson of Columbia the following year for a fellowship. It is a characteristic piece of work, showing exactness, breadth and daring and stands to-day without material change as our fullest study of these stages in the Orthoptera.

While this particular contribution is all that appeared in print during his stay in Lawrence the rest of his studies on Orthopteran spermatogenesis are a part of the general



*C.E. McClung* series which we undertook together. Separated as we were in later days, it was not feasible to maintain the division of the work, and his studies at Columbia in preparation of his doctor's thesis led him over the whole field. Fortunately at this time the visit of Bateson, with his insistent cry for recognition of Mendel's work, brought the broad principles of alternative inheritance strongly to Walter's attention. This was all that was needed to fix in his mind the relation between the mechanism of the germ cell and the exhibition of body characters, and led him almost at once to the conception of the theory which appears in his paper, "The chromosomes in heredity," 1903, the basis for which was laid in his earlier paper, "On the morphology of the chromosome group on *Brachystola magna*," 1902. This important generalization, one of the few really significant ones of the last two decades, appears all the more firmly grounded with the subsequent accumulation of new facts. It alone would be sufficient to establish the reputation of its originator as a biologist of the first rank. While the stimulus of new surroundings and diverse viewpoints had much to do with the formulation of this theory it is of interest, as showing his ready grasp of essentials, to note that, in a letter giving an account of his work at this time, he states that the germ of the conception was in

his mind fully a year before it was hastened to development by the recital of Mendel's results. *C.E. McClung*

Although this list of papers is not large its brevity is more than compensated for by the quality of the contributions. Each is a distinct and permanent addition to our knowledge and bears the evidence of care, discrimination and a constructive imagination of high character. With but few changes the determination of facts will stand as he recorded them, and the guiding principle of a parallelism between the movements of the germ cell chromosomes and the development of body characters which he drew from the observed condition seems destined to take its place as one of the very limited number of valid hypotheses in this field. Such work, accomplished in the few brief years which he devoted to it, speaks in unmistakable terms of the high character of his mentality and the soundness of his methods. And indeed these qualities distinguished all his work.

At length the time came for us to break our long and pleasant companionship. Wider opportunities beckoned from the east and we all urged him to accept them. His last night in Lawrence I will never forget. There were so many things to do and it was so difficult to decide upon what was to be taken and what left that the night wore rapidly away as



*C.E. McClung* we worked. When nothing remained for me to do I sought sleep on a laboratory table and spent the rest of the night there while Walter finished his packing. In the early morning, with a heavy heart, I said good-by and saw him pass from under my halting and immature guidance into that of the best men the country afforded—and the pleasure was near as great at his good fortune as if it had been my own.

Until Walter returned again as an associate on the faculty of the Medical School some eight years passed, and of these years and their labors others will write. To me they brought many letters, telling of new experiences, rejoicing in the rapid development of ideas under fresh stimuli, voicing hopes and fears of success, first in biology then in medicine, and finally the triumph of appointment to a much desired internship. For a while there was a conflict of interest between the old field of investigation, in which early success had been achieved, and the new and compelling discipline of the medical work, but before long biology was forced aside and the letters became full of “cases” or “riding the bus,” of examinations, and all the hurrying incidents of the medical course. During this later period of his New York stay I had an opportunity to visit him for a few days and to be shown with compelling enthusiasm the many activities of the intern’s life. Although

the scenes were widely different from those of our quiet laboratory they evoked from Walter the same display of high spirit and optimism, although to me the wrecks of humanity were most depressing. *C.E. McClung*

On this occasion his welcome of me to New York was characteristic of his kindly nature and genuine hospitality. Owing to the long hours and imperative character of his duties he feared that he would not be able to meet me on my arrival by boat from Norfolk, and so he had sent minute directions, accompanied by a diagram of the streets about Columbus Circle, for finding his room and place of work. A storm delayed our passage and the boat was many hours late, arriving at the dock in the early morning hours. I entertained no thought of leaving my berth until daylight should make my appearance as a visitor a proper matter. But I had reckoned without my host, indeed, for no sooner was the boat made fast than I heard Walter's voice calling before my door. He had made arrangements, despite his hospital duties, to be informed when the boat would be in and was there with plans for a lunch and other suggestions for the comfort of the storm tossed visitor. After seeing me installed in bed he went off again to uncertain hours of hospital duties. Such a service was most natural to him. Many times, after his return to Kansas City,

*C.E. McClung* he would be at the station or house with his automobile to make my coming or going comfortable and pleasant. Even the distance to Lawrence was no hindrance to his plan for giving us a Sunday afternoon ride, and a picture which I took of the party, and which I shall now always cherish, shows him smiling and happy at the end of the ride. Better than any high sounding encomiums these simple incidents display the true character of our friend. Many of them crowd to my mind and none do I recall of which I would change the memory.

Walter's loyalty to his Alma Mater was great and the opportunity to aid in the up-building of the new medical school at Rose-dale was eagerly welcomed. Others will tell of his services to this struggling institution, but it may be permitted me to bear testimony to his unselfish devotion to its interests in the face of all discouragements. Many times he sought me out for a hearing of his plans for the betterment of his own work and for the advancement of the school. When these seemed too urgent for delay until a meeting could be arranged, a letter would come with a request for candid advice. In none of these do I find displayed a selfish spirit. What he desired above all was a chance to do for the school and for his science. In this way he would return some measure of the benefit de-

rived from his benign mother and would serve *C.E. McClung* suffering humanity through his chosen medium. And now, in full pursuit of these aims, with the evidences of success in his chosen calling steadily accumulating, he is called upon to lay aside his tools of mercy and to depart from us into a strange land. We are bereft and wondering and would have it otherwise—but may not. Consolation, at first quite wanting, comes with the thought that our memories, some of which are here set down, we have always with us—and how pleasant they are, and full of satisfaction with a life well and honestly lived and with a comrade and friend in whose association there is nothing to regret or to extenuate. As for me I can say quite simply and sincerely that, if I might, I would not change in any way these memories, so full of pleasure and satisfaction are they, so devoid of regret and doubt.



## Edmund B. Wilson, Ph. D.

Da Costa Professor of Zoology, Columbian University,  
New York.

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In looking back upon my long and intimate acquaintance with Walter Sutton I find it difficult to say whether I recall most vividly the irresistible attraction of his personality, the keenness and power of his mind, or the artistic quality of his work. All these are blended in the treasured memory of a man who from first to last, commanded my admiration, respect and affection; and I can say without reservation that in the course of a long career as a teacher of science it has never been my fortune to meet with his equal in this rare combination of qualities. But if I valued his exceptional endowment as a student, I prized still more his friendship; for Sutton was every inch a man, and one whom it was a privilege and an honor to know.

It was, I think, in the autumn of 1901 that Walter Sutton entered Columbia as a graduate student in Zoology, after having had an admirable training in zoology and cytology from Professor C. E. McClung at the University of



Kansas; and in 1902 he was successful in the *Edmund B. Wilson* eagerly contested competition for appointment to a University Fellowship at Columbia. In spite of his unassuming and quiet manner his unusual abilities soon became evident, and it was not long before he naturally took his place as a central figure among the investigators and students in the laboratory. He had brought with him from McClung's laboratory his cytological preparations of *Orthoptera*, particularly those of the great "lubber grasshopper" (*Brachystola*), one of the finest objects thus far discovered for the investigation of the minutest details of cell-structure and one on which he had already published (1900) the results of an earlier investigation. His work in my laboratory was largely devoted to extending those observations. They will occupy a permanent place in the history of biology because they led him, step by step, to a discovery of the first rank, namely, the identification of the cytological mechanism of Mendel's law of heredity.

This discovery was made known in two papers—one, published in the *Biological Bulletin* in December, 1902, entitled, "On the Morphology of the Chromosome Group in *Brachystola Magna*," the other in April, 1903, entitled "The Chromosomes in Heredity." The first of these set forth his main observations with only a brief indication of their theoretical

*Edmund B. Wilson* bearing; the second developed their wider implications with truly admirable brevity and skill.

In itself the discovery would have been enough to make his name known in scientific circles throughout the world; but the impression that it made was heightened by the remarkable clearness, completeness and logical penetration with which it was developed and set forth. It would be out of place to enter here upon the technicalities of the subject, and I will only say a few words concerning its general aspects. If we may judge by its fruits, the discovery of Mendel's law probably should be regarded as the greatest advance in biology since Darwin's *Origin of Species* founded the modern theory of evolution. For many years the data for a physical explanation of that law had slowly been accumulating through the labors of a group of leading cytologists, among whom the most prominent, perhaps, were Van Beneden, Boveri and Montgomery. Only a year or two before Sutton, the work of Guyer, Montgomery and Boveri had led them almost to the verge of such an explanation. Sutton, however, was the first clearly to perceive and make it known; and I desire here to bear witness to the fact, after having followed every step of his work on the subject, that the conception was his own, wholly uninfluenced by the work or the ideas

of others excepting insofar as every important discovery has been built upon a foundation laid by earlier investigators; and it may also be pointed out that in the opening words of his first paper Sutton makes due acknowledgment to the work of his predecessors.

*Edmund B.  
Wilson*

I well remember when, in the early spring of 1902, Sutton first brought his main conclusions to my attention, saying that he believed he had really discovered "why the yellow dog is yellow." I also clearly recall that at that time I did not at once fully comprehend his conception or realize its entire weight.

We passed the following summer together in zoological study at the sea side, first at Beaufort, N. C., later at South Harpswell, Me., and it was only then, in the course of our many discussions, that I first saw the full sweep and the fundamental significance of his discovery. Today the cytological basis of Mendel's law, as worked out by him, forms the basis of our interpretation of many of the most intricate phenomena of heredity, including the splitting up and recombination of characters in successive generations of hybrids, the phenomena of correlation and linkage, of sex and sex-linked heredity and a vast series of kindred processes that were wholly mysterious before their solution was found through Mendel's law. Subsequent to the appearance of Sutton's papers, Boveri stated, 1904, that at the time they were



*Edmund B. Wilson* published he had himself already reached the same general result. This does not, however, in the smallest degree detract from Sutton's fine achievement, which will take its place in the history of biology as one of the most important advances of our time. He made an indelible mark on scientific progress, and his name is known wherever biology is studied.

It was during the summer of 1902, which we passed together at the sea side, that I first came to know Sutton in a more intimate and personal way and learned better to appreciate the fine traits of his character. The experiences of that delightful summer are today as fresh in my memory as they were fifteen years ago. The life of the sleepy old seaport town of Beaufort was to him a wholly new experience, one into which he entered with endless interest and delight. There, as everywhere, he made friends on every side, from the "quality" of Southern society down to the negro boatmen or the little darkies who used to sing and dance for us in the moonlight on the wharf in front of "Miss Sarah's" boarding house. I am very proud of having been one of Sutton's teachers in biology, but not less proud of the distinction of having been the first to teach him how to sail a boat. Quickly mastering this difficult art, he soon far outstripped his instructor; and I shall not forget the amusement and delight with which

I once saw him make a difficult landing in masterly fashion to the discomfiture of a group of native boatmen lined up on the wharf in confident expectation of seeing him come to disaster. Day by day we worked and played together, digging specimens in the mud flats, dredging the waters of the bay, making dissections and drawings, sailing, swimming, tramping in the pine woods; and day by day my admiration and affection for him grew as little incidents and adventures revealed more and more of his rare character and personality. We passed the latter part of the summer at Casco Bay, on the coast of Maine, which seemed like another world after the semi-tropical landscape of the South; and here Sutton made a new circle of warm friends and found new appreciation for the quality of his work.

*Edmund B.  
Wilson*

During this summer Sutton had fully worked out his theory of the chromosomes in relation to Mendel's law and upon his return to New York he immediately set about the preparations for its publication. His first paper, as already stated, appeared late in 1902, the second early in the spring of the following year. These two brief papers were intended to be of a preliminary nature, a fuller presentation of his conclusions, together with a large number of beautiful drawings, already finished at that time, being reserved for a later work



*Edmund B. Wilson* which he had expected to offer as a dissertation for the Ph.D. degree at Columbia. It was a source of profound regret to us that circumstances prevented the realization of that plan and brought his cytological investigations to a close. In spite of his brilliant talents as an investigator it would perhaps be more accurate to say because of them—the career of a teacher did not tempt him. Could he have been assured of a reasonable means of support from a life devoted to pure research, he would not, I believe, have hesitated. But he had his own way to make in the world and from the first had a strong inclination towards the study of medicine. The combination of circumstances proved irresistible; and after a year or two spent in business he returned to Columbia, entered the Medical School, and graduated with the highest honors two years later. Others can speak with a greater competence than I concerning his brilliant career as a physician and surgeon; but I can testify to the strong impression which, as a student of medicine, he made upon the faculty of the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia. He was generally recognized as one of the ablest medical students of his time, and at the end of his medical course was awarded one of the most coveted hospital positions in the City of New York, where the final prepara-

tion for his professional practice was completed. *Edmund B. Wilson*

In these later busy years his zoological friends saw less of him; but keenly as we regretted to see his work of research swallowed up in the imperative demands of professional training no one could fail to respect the unswerving tenacity and concentration of effort with which he gave himself to the mastery of his subject. Walter Sutton's life was devoted to a noble profession with a conspicuous success that gave every promise of greater things to come; but those familiar with his brief scientific career must deplore the great loss that biological science suffered through the termination of his work of research in that field. Yet however deeply we may feel this, our sense of loss becomes even greater when memory recalls the nobility of his character and the winning and endearing quality of his personality. As I recall his characteristic traits of mind and of heart, that which is uppermost in my memory is his quiet steadfastness and force and a certain quality of serenity that gave forth a kind of radiance to light and warm the way of life for all who came within its kindly and steadying influence. This rare quality, one of fortune's greatest gifts, Sutton possessed beyond most men whom I have known. His clear, direct gaze, his self-possessed and tranquil manner were the out-

*Edmund B. Wilson* ward signs both of mental poise and of lofty and steadfast character; and herein, as it seems to me, we find one of the secrets not only of his personal charm, but also of that quality of leadership that inevitably led him forward towards the first rank of achievement. The world has too few such men; it can ill afford to lose them. Sutton's life was all too short, it left much unfinished, but it was fruitful in overflowing measure; and our grief at his untimely loss may find some comfort in the thought of how much he gave to us, and of the indelible impress that his life made alike on science and on the hearts of his friends.

## Henry Helvie.

Peru, Kansas.

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Being entirely without literary skill or training I realize that it is absolutely impossible for me to say any words in memory of Walter Sutton that would come any way near doing justice to him, but as I was personally acquainted with him for about thirteen years and closely associated with him for two years I can not help saying a word or two.

Our acquaintance began on December 1, 1903, in the oil fields of Chautauqua County, Kansas, where he was looking after the interests of The Chautauqua Oil and Gas Company. I went to work for that company under his orders. Although the oil business was all new to him he handled his work in a way that would have done credit to a man who had had years of oil field experience. He had a thorough grasp of the mechanical principles involved in the work in the oil fields and he tested all proposed work by the principles rather than by the length of time any particular device had been in use.

About the first radical change that I



*Henry Helvie* remember of his making in oil field practice after our acquaintance began was in perfecting a device for starting large gas engines with high pressure gas. From the beginning of the use of gas engines in the oil country it was the custom to start them by pulling and tramping the fly wheels, but that way was so hard and dangerous, too, that it did not look good to Walter and as there was plenty of high pressure gas in the field he conceived the idea of harnessing it up to do the engine starting. Many of the oil men of long experience assured him of the impracticability of his idea but their objections did not seem well founded and he went ahead with his experiment. It was a complete success and soon was in general use throughout the entire Mid-continent field wherever there was high gas pressure.

Soon afterwards he started to work out a wire line pumping and pulling device, in which the idea was to use the same power to pull the well as was used in pumping it. It is necessary to put new cups on the valves in an oil well wherever the old ones are worn off by rubbing in the working barrel or cylinder and as the valves are in the bottom of the well they have to be pulled out to make the change. This is usually done with a team and two men, but with Walter's device all that was necessary was to put it in gear and the same



power that pumped the well pulled it out in *Henry Helvie* a couple of hours and when the valves came out the machine was automatically thrown out of gear, enabling the pumper to change cups and run the valves back to bottom on a brake without extra help and in a few minutes time. The new principle involved was the substitution of a flexible wire line for solid iron rods to carry and operate the valves.

Just before he left the oil field he was working on an application of electricity to the drilling of oil wells which would do away with the use of boilers and engines, and had he stayed in the oil field I have no doubt of his doing it as he was a man of rare ability. In less than two years time he was generally recognized as an expert in the equipment and operation of oil leases.

It was only a few days after he was talking to me about his electric drill that he called me by phone from Peru and said, "Well, Henry, I guess I will have to tell you good bye for a while as I am leaving this afternoon for home, and from there I will go to New York to take up my medical studies." And when I asked him why he had decided so suddenly he said, "I have just received a letter from father telling me to go back and complete my work in school, and as I have always minded father I will not change now."

Although I was sorry to see Walter

*Henry Helvie* leave the oil field I was glad to see him take up his medical work for I knew he was bound to succeed and medicine and surgery gave him a far greater field in which to distinguish himself. That he did succeed, although the time was short, no one can doubt, and by the death of Walter Sutton the country loses a man of supreme usefulness and singular genius.

## John Colin Vaughan, M. D.

New York City.

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Early in the fall of 1902 Professor Wilson of Columbia was to give a lecture on cytology to the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Gathered outside the lecture hall stood a group of second year students discussing whether it would pay to spend the time taking in the lecture, as those were busy days and we were jealous of every hour. Among the group was a stranger who had just entered the second year class. He argued that the subject was interesting and had a good deal to do with medicine, and that we should not miss the lecture. As nobody else knew much about the subject the stranger won and we attended the lecture. It *was* interesting, and we soon began to think that the single cell could put it all over the higher organisms when it came to complicated acts. At the close of his lecture Professor Wilson said that a good deal of the late work on the cell had been done during the previous year by a first year medical student in the University of Kansas, who had become a member of our

*John Colin* second year class, then he asked if Walter  
*Vaughan* Sutton would please stand up. In this manner  
Sutton was introduced to P. and S.

During that year Sutton worked hard and although I saw as much of him as of any member of the class our hours together outside the classroom were few. He spent most of the time he could spare from the college in Professor Wilson's laboratory working up his thesis for his Ph. D. In the classroom we all soon grew to respect his judgment and to admire his power of analysis. The detail with which he answered the questions put to him never ceased to fill us with wonder as it seemed impossible that anyone could cover the various subjects with such thoroughness in the time at our disposal.

In the end of the term in the spring of 1903 I shook hands with Sutton, told him to remember me to God's country, and expressed my regret that I should not see him in the fall when he would return, as I was going into the Arctic for a year. The year in the Arctic lengthened into two and it was the autumn of 1905 when I came back to New York. I went immediately to see the secretary of the college to enquire about the prospect of continuing my medical course. I found Sutton there on a similar errand, his absence having matched my own. We were told that many of the subjects had been dropped back a year



while we had been away and it seemed as though we should not be permitted to enter the third year class without conditions. We discussed this with the secretary for some time and finally our combined arguments won the day and we were entered as though we had not been away. The whole circumstance, in addition to the friendliness we had felt before brought us closer so that we decided to room together. After a search we took possession of a big old-fashioned back parlor and prepared for a year of hard work.

*John Colin  
Vaughan*

Sutton learned easily and put in very little time on the study of any one subject; he could read a book through quickly and grasp all the important points. We took in every lecture on medical and other scientific subjects that we possibly could find time for. Sutton received reprints from most of the cytologists of the world; he would read them over aloud, now and then stopping to say "Note that point"; he would get out the unpublished thesis which he had written in 1902 and would show me how he had worked out the same point, then would cross it out of his thesis. It made me sore to see so much of his research being accomplished by others and the honors going to them, and I urged him to publish his thesis even if he did not go up for his Ph. D. He said that he did not have time, that later he would take it up again and round it out as



*John Colin* there were several big things in it that had  
*Vaughan* not been duplicated.

About the middle of the winter he became interested in oil well machinery and from that time on the room overflowed with drawings for all kinds of pumps and for electric drilling tools of many types, and with letters from the Patent Office delivered in every mail. Most of the things planned and drafted were not carried out but were put away with his thesis to be finished later.

On Sundays we would visit my people in New Jersey, taking long walks in woods and fields, and there the simpler side of Walter's nature would come out and we would talk, plan and play like boys. At the house he always liked to help with anything and made himself so useful in such a pleasant and merry way that my mother used to say he was like another son.

A great many friends from the west came to see Walter in New York. They all had the greatest admiration for him and he would do anything in his power for them; his friendships were close and sincere, and his liberal heart and generous hand helped out many boys who were hard pressed to make both ends meet.

In the final year at college Walter and I promised each other that we would settle down to hard work and make the year count for a

good deal. Sutton substituted for several months at various hospitals where his ability and practical worth began to be noticed. His talent for inventions and for improving the form of implements began to exert itself again, and when everyone else in the class was plugging up for hospital examinations he would be spending his evenings planning new instruments. Still he always had his work ready and would be able to answer all questions to the smallest details, proving that his habit of a few minutes complete concentration is worth hours of the usual style of study.

*John Colin  
Vaughan*

I remember the morning of the day of the Roosevelt Hospital examinations. Walter was absorbed in rigging up a skull which he had fastened to the head of the bed; he ran a thread down behind the bed and across the floor to the window where we sat to study, and while apparently engaged with his book he could pull open the jaw of the skull and let it snap together again with a clash of the teeth. A fat old negress used to make up our room and she had always looked askance at this skull, but this morning when she was smoothing the bed she heard the snap of the teeth and glancing up saw the jaws slowly opening. With one leap and one yell she was out of the room and never could be persuaded to make up our bed again.

That afternoon Walter made the place he

*John Colin* wanted on the Roosevelt Hospital staff. I  
*Vaughan* went on the service of the Presbyterian Hospital and we both deeply regretted the separation. We talked over the three years in which we had worked together and of our plans for the future. We had reached a goal in our lives and each felt safe for the time.

Since those days we have met rarely, but the affection has not waned. Everyone who has worked with Sutton always speaks of his ability for clear reasoning, the brilliance of his scientific achievement; to his intimate friends the memory of him always recalls fairness and loyalty, his big heart and helping hand.

George Emerson Brewer, A.M. M.D.  
F.A.C.S.

Professor of Surgery, College of Physicians and Surgeons,  
New York.

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I first came to know Dr. Walter S. Sutton during the period of his internship in the Roosevelt Hospital.

While still a junior assistant he showed so much energy, interest and enthusiasm in the work that the members of the visiting staff were singularly attracted to him.

In addition to the routine work of the hospital, which he always did to the satisfaction of his associates, he seemed to have time to devote to investigation and experimental research in the various problems of surgery, as well as practical work in anaesthesia and wound treatment.

It was during this period that he developed a new and perfect technic for anaesthesia by colonic absorption of ether vapor. Although this method had been tried out many years before at the Boston City Hospital and used for a time in that institution for mouth and head cases, owing to imperfections in the



*George* method of administering it, and the resulting  
*Emerson* high percentage of colitis and proctitis which  
*Brewer* followed its use, the practice was eventually  
abandoned. Dr. Sutton was interested in  
some experimental work along these lines,  
carried out in the Surgical Research Labora-  
tory of the College of Physicians and Sur-  
geons, and was able to observe the results of  
the method on the human being in a few cases  
at the Roosevelt and other hospitals. His  
acute mind, always alert and scientifically  
critical, saw at once the defects of the method  
as employed. He was also convinced that the  
method, if these defects in technic could be  
avoided, would be useful, particularly in oper-  
ations on the upper portion of the thorax, the  
neck and head. He felt that if the method  
could be rendered safe and free from dis-  
agreeable consequences it would have an im-  
mense advantage over the ordinary inhalation  
method, in that it would enable the operator  
to work in the regions adjacent to the mouth  
and upper respiratory tract without interfer-  
ence from the anaesthetist or his apparatus.  
After months of painstaking experimental  
work he devised an apparatus with which he  
was able to administer the anaesthetic by the  
colonic method without danger of accident or  
complication. In a large series of cases in  
which he administered the anaesthetic in this  
way at the Roosevelt Hospital, there was a



surprising absence of the ordinary postoperative complications such as prolonged vomiting, postoperative bronchitis or pneumonia, renal irritation, etc. All of the surgeons on duty at the Roosevelt Hospital adopted the method for mouth operations, operations on the larynx, thyroid and neck. In fact, the method was so successful and rendered the operative technic in these regions so much simpler that its use gradually extended to operations upon the breast, thorax, upper extremity and back. Dr. Sutton published a report of his work which was of very considerable interest to the profession. When he became house surgeon his opportunities for original investigations were limited on account of the increased responsibility associated with his routine work. It was, however, the testimony of all of the visiting staff, who were associated with him, that he made one of the most capable, conscientious and thoroughly reliable house surgeons who had ever served in the Roosevelt Hospital.

It was, however, during his service in the American Ambulance Hospital at Juilly, France, during the spring and summer of 1915, that Dr. Sutton achieved his greatest reputation. This hospital, founded and supported by Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney of New York City, was at the time the nearest base hospital to the firing line in France or Belgium. As the result of this the hospital was

*George  
Emerson  
Brewer*

*George* kept full of the seriously wounded and cases  
*Emerson* requiring the highest degree of surgical judg-  
*Brewer* ment and skill. In his work here he was ably  
assisted by a number of capable surgeons,  
many of them his colleagues in the Roosevelt  
Hospital and College of Physicians and Sur-  
geons. The nursing staff of this institution  
consisted of some of the best trained and  
most experienced graduates of the various  
New York hospitals.

In the position of surgeon-in-chief to this  
hospital, Dr. Sutton not only had to assume  
the entire surgical responsibility of the  
patients under his care, but was in addition  
the chief administrative officer of the hospital.  
This required an immense amount of detail  
routine work in addition to his professional  
duties. Throughout the entire term of his  
service he commanded the respect not only of  
his professional colleagues, the Board of  
Trustees of the American Ambulance Hos-  
pital, but also of his immediate superiors of  
the medical corps of the Sixth Army. It was  
during his administration that one of the  
periods of greatest activity that the hospital  
ever experienced occurred. After a severe  
battle just to the north of Juilly sixty-nine  
severely wounded patients were admitted in  
twenty-four hours, and in the two days follow-  
ing the admissions were such as to crowd the  
hospital to its fullest capacity.

*George  
Emerson  
Brewer*

This sudden influx of gravely wounded soldiers taxed the endurance of the entire staff to its utmost; but at the end of this trying time it was found that every patient had been admitted, examined, dressed, X-rayed, and if necessary, operated upon with the least possible delay, and with the greatest amount of efficiency on the part of all members of the staff and employees of the hospital. Had it not been for Dr. Sutton's extraordinary executive ability and his wisdom in preparing in advance for just such an emergency the entire hospital would have become demoralized when such a large number of patients were admitted in so short a time. During the entire period the routine work of the hospital was carried on like clockwork, and members of the surgical and nursing staffs, as well as the workers in the X-ray and pathological laboratories, were on duty continuously until the rush was over. In the end it was found that in not a single instance had an accident occurred, and it was the testimony of all that no unavoidable delay took place which in any way complicated the condition of a single patient.

When Dr. Sutton finally left the hospital he took with him not only the most enthusiastic approval and good will of all those connected with the institution, but in addition many evidences of gratitude and appreciation from the wounded in the wards.

Joseph A. Blake, Ph. D. M. D.  
F. A. C. S.

Medecin-Chef, de l' Hopital Complementaire,  
Paris, France.

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Dr. Sutton graduated with a high standing from the College of Physicians and Surgeons and commenced his hospital service on my division at Roosevelt Hospital in June, 1907. He at once demonstrated his ability as a surgeon and especially his cleverness in designing surgical apparatus. At that time I was much interested in the treatment of peritonitis by irrigation of the abdomen and had devised an apparatus by which this could be accomplished without diffusing the infection in the abdomen. The apparatus, as I had it made, was somewhat clumsy and inefficient, and Dr. Sutton at once improved it so that it was practically automatic in its action.

He then interested himself in the question of rectal anaesthesia and devised a very clever apparatus, making a great deal of it himself, by which the ether was vaporized, the vapor warmed and introduced into the rectum in known quantity, the apparatus being so ar-



ranged that not only was the amount given measured, but could be regulated readily at the will of the anaesthetiser. By his apparatus a large number of rectal anaesthesias were performed without any harmful results. *Joseph A. Blake*

The latter part of his service when as house surgeon he was in charge of this service and did a large number of operations, he showed a remarkable skill in operating for such a young man and also judgment which one would only have looked for in a surgeon of far greater experience. I always felt that it was safe to let him do any operations without guidance and that no mistakes would be made.

His keenness and enthusiasm, coupled with marked intelligence and extreme dexterity, made him advance with great rapidity. It was a great regret to me that he decided to quit New York and practice at his home. I had hoped that he would return to New York and become a valuable member of the surgical department at the University.

After that I saw very little of him, although I kept hearing of his promotions at home; until he came to France to take service in the hospital at Juilly under Dr. Walton Martin. Dr. Martin left soon after the hospital was opened and commenced to receive wounded, and Dr. Sutton became *Medecin-Chef* and conducted the hospital and the serv-



*Joseph A. Blake* ice with great satisfaction. While there he devised his method of finding foreign bodies in the tissues. This method was exceedingly simple yet very clever. It consisted of passing a trocar and a cannula into the tissues under the fluoroscopic screen, the cannula being easily kept in line with the foreign body because, under the screen, if it were not in line with the foreign body, more than the end would be seen. The trocar and cannula were introduced until they touched the piece of shell or bullet, when the trocar was removed, leaving the cannula in place. A piece of fine steel wire, with its end bent over like a crochet needle, was then introduced through the cannula and the cannula withdrawn, the wire retained its position on account of its bent end catching in the tissues. It was then a simple matter to cut down upon the foreign body, along the piece of wire, which could be readily done with a local anaesthesia.

By this means he removed a large number of foreign bodies, some of them even being in the chest, without failure. His method has been used by others with great satisfaction.

In the two years Dr. Sutton worked with me at the Roosevelt Hospital and during the time that he was here in France, I never heard a word of criticism in regard to him; he was popular with everyone, but his popularity never interfered with his efficiency and his

power to accomplish everything he intended. *Joseph A. Blake*  
His death is a great loss to me personally and, in my opinion, to the Surgical Profession and to the community in general.

In the last number of "Science" which I have received I read a short notice in regard to some of his work on the Mendelian theory of heredity, which was my first intimation that he had extended his labor into the realm of pure biological research.

I wish I might be able to give a fuller account of his activity when he was under my observation, but I have absolutely no records here to work from, simply my memory. Naturally, I can only remember the things which impressed me most in regard to him.

## Lindsay S. Milne, M. D.

Professor of Medicine, University of Kansas.

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The individual personal sense of bereavement occasioned by the loss from our ranks of Doctor Walter Stanborough Sutton is perhaps only more keenly felt by the institutions he had contributed so much to organize and inspire. Although a man yet young in years, his career had become replete with honor and distinction and his name was a by-word for strength of character, boundless energy in the pursuit of knowledge and a magnetic personality that made him both loved and respected by everyone, and as a type that admitted nothing insurmountable.

In that phase of his life which was most productive and in which perhaps his greatest honors were achieved was the period that he devoted his greatest energies and interest to the organization, development and surgical practice of the University of Kansas, and in this institution it would seem as if one of its pillars had suddenly fallen.

It was during the last four years of this time that I became closely associated with him and received a daily inspiration from him, as

his knowledge extended widely beyond the bounds of surgery and provided a source from which I, as well as all his colleagues, could always benefit in the study of the problems of their particular specialties. In this time he had become a friend whose loss I personally can never replace but whose memory is a daily guide to all that is good and honorable.

*Lindsay S.  
Milne*

He had a most remarkable type of memory, one that was perfectly catalogued and indexed and from which could be culled at will all the correlated facts he had ever learned or been able to acquire on any subject.

His first connection with the faculty of the University of Kansas after his return from graduation in Columbia University and internship in Roosevelt Hospital, New York, was as attendant in the surgical division of the North End Dispensary, then the out-patient department of the University of Kansas. This duty he entered on September 30, 1909. For some years he faithfully and strenuously developed his work there. On June 16, 1911, he was appointed Associate Professor of Surgery in the University of Kansas and till the time he was called from his center of activity and the greater part of his daily routine was spent at Bell Memorial Hospital. While there he was the idol of the students on account of his genial personality, unquestionable ability and his rare talent in teaching. These traits along



*Lindsay S.* with his forceful character and exceptional  
*Milne* genius for organization made him a real friend with all the members of the faculty and a force in the council and administrative committee of the school.

His inventive and mechanical genius, which already had been expressed in his earlier career in the field of biology with Dr. McClung and Dr. Wilson, and while an interne in New York in the elaboration of the rectal method of anaesthesia, rapidly placed him in the forefront of surgery and obtained for him early recognition in the membership of the American College of Surgeons when that organization was founded. His work on plastic and orthopedic surgery not only created a wide circle of patients whose lives had as a result of his work, taken on a new meaning, but created the reputation for which Dr. Sutton was perhaps best known in his profession. Indeed, his achievements in the building up of destroyed portions of the face, particularly the nose and deformities of the mouth, were triumphs of surgical mechanical skill as also was his original work in the orthopedic field in which he devised the technique for the celluloid casts so much in vogue at the present time.

In February, 1915, following his usual intentness in the pursuit of knowledge, his love of exploring the unknown and his broad hu-



manitarian principles, he obtained leave of absence from the University of Kansas for service in the Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney Base Hospital Unit of the American Ambulance stationed in Juilly, France. Here also his organizing ability and skill proved invaluable. *Lindsay S. Milne*

Since his return from the war zone with the added experience gained there his services were even more valuable and his untimely death has deprived all of us with whom he was a colleague, of a friend we could always depend on, of a surgeon whose skill and judgment were of the highest class, of a teacher and of a unit in all the organizations he was attached to, and of the numerous societies he was a member of, that is almost irreplaceable.

At all times and under all conditions he was self possessed and courageous, traits which might be illustrated by a little incident I recall. While coming out from a hotel Walter noticed a man attempting to steal his car. The car had just been started and a confederate on the sidewalk was on the point of joining the thief. Walter jumped into the front seat beside the thief whose friend had decided after some consideration that discretion was the better part of valor. A very pointed and highly entertaining conversation with the thief followed after which Walter let the man out, to that individual's very considerable surprise.

## Henry M. Lyle, M. D., F. A. C. S.

Professor of Clinical Surgery, Columbia University, N. Y.

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In the winter of 1915 we were engaged in looking for a surgeon of experience and ability to go to France to take up the work of Hospital B, American Ambulance. We were very anxious to secure a young man who would represent the best type of American surgery. After considering the possible men whose work and personality were known to us we concluded that we would try to obtain Sutton of Kansas City.

No mention was made of the fact that he was to succeed me in charge of the hospital. He was simply asked to come and help. The time allotted was short. We wired him. He answered, "I will make the boat on the 13th." He did. This was typical of the man—no hesitancy—he had made his decision and he was going to see it through.

We met for the first time on the deck of the Philadelphia on the morning of February 13, 1915. From that moment on he was the life and soul of that little party.

When we set sail for France with hopes

and hearts high we little thought that before two years had passed generous, big-hearted Walter would be the second of this little company to pass to the great unknown, but we always knew, come what might, he would face it unafraid. *Henry M. Lyle*

When we arrived at Juilly we found that the hospital had been receiving wounded for about three weeks. Here we were, Americans, all of us with general surgical experience, none of us with an experience in war surgery. We were here to do what we could to help the wounded, and to try to repay, to the best of our ability, a small portion of the debt we, as Americans, owed to France. We were met with kindness on every side, yet we felt that we were here to prove our worth, and knew that if we failed we would be judged, not as individuals, but as Americans. In the eyes of the French military authorities we were representing American surgery. It is hard for one in civil life to understand the responsibilities and anxieties connected with such a position of trust. Walter was quick to see and understand the condition, and to his loyal and efficient aid much of the success in winning the approval of the military authorities is due. In talking the situation over and discussing new problems with him he was always quick to grasp the essential points, and when we had decided upon a plan he saw to it that it was

*Henry M. Lyle* promptly carried out. He hated all affectation and sham. His guiding principles were cheerfulness, directness and thoroughness. Walter had always before him our two-fold mission: to help the wounded, and by helping them in the most skillful and efficient manner to maintain the honor of American surgery. With a cheerful personality and a splendid executive ability he combined a rare degree of operative skill. He had the gentle touch that marks the master surgeon, a wonderful mechanical excellency, a resourcefulness and a courage that on many occasions carried us through the most trying of all moments, those moments when life hangs in the balance. It is times like these amidst stress and strain that the true worth of a man comes forward.

As I look back on those happy days at Juilly when we were all together and the time for leaving was drawing near, I felt extremely sad to go, yet I was happy for I knew that the work which we all loved so well would go on and improve. My faith in Walter, or "Bill Taft," as the French soldiers affectionately called him, was amply justified.

When Walter laid down the direction of Juilly to return home after his six months of faithful service, Hospital B was the most efficient American Unit in France.

When I recall that simple but beautiful service that France gives to those who have



fallen for her, a service we two had often *Henry M.*  
heard together, its beauty and simplicity ap- *Lyle*  
pealed to us both, and Walter one day said,  
“Do you know, Lyle, if I were to go, I would  
like to have such a service and hear my cap-  
tain say, ‘Adieu, dear comrade, you have done  
your work and had no fear to die. Your coun-  
try salutes you.’ ”



## Dr. Nelse F. Ockerblad.

Montreal General Hospital, Montreal, Canada.

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In this fast moving age the passing of a great man scarcely causes a ripple upon the sea of the nations, but the loss of a friend is as keenly felt and as truly mourned as in any day. Our beloved friend, Dr. Walter S. Sutton, has "gone before" and we mourn him, but yet he is not gone for his spirit lives on in the lives of his students, his fellows in the profession and his patients. We cannot by sorrowing call him back—we cannot be with him—yet—but we can, as those among the last of his students to sit in his classroom, remember him always as a teacher who added much to our lives.

We can recognize genius in him though he stated as his belief that genius was in its essence only hard work. We can testify that the great underlying motives of his life were right, that he worked hard for small material rewards, that his professional ideals were worthy of emulation, and that his personality was free from guile and deception.

He despised a loafer, and a "crook" he

could not abide. His ironic wit oftentimes fixed *Nelse F. Ockerblad* a point in mind in a way never to be forgotten. The mistakes you made before him you never made again. He had the viewpoint of a student because he never ceased to be a student himself. He anticipated your difficulties because the same difficulties had assailed him.

Outside the classroom or clinic he was a most likeable friend and genial companion. We respected him for his gift of skill and his learning, we loved him as a teacher and fellow student, we mourn with our Alma Mater the loss of one who promised so much for the future of medical education in Kansas.

## Dr. John Fairbairn Binnie

Attending Surgeon Christian Church Hospital,  
Kansas City, Mo.

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A perusal of the preceding pages will show that Walter Sutton was fortunate enough to be afforded unusual educational advantages, both academic and professional, and he took full advantage of these favors of fortune. He further was able to cultivate a natural mechanical bent. This last was of very great value to him in his surgical work, enabling him to carry out with ease and confidence many of the ideas which arose in his active mind.

Soon after Sutton returned to Kansas City he became closely associated with me both in my public and private work. This association was continued during the years which elapsed before my connection with the Clinical Department of University of Kansas was interrupted. Sutton was made responsible for the teaching of several important departments of surgery—notably fractures and dislocations. In these subjects his inclination to and training in mechanics made it easy for him to explain and demonstrate the mode in

which these injuries occurred and the best *John* methods for their relief and treatment. His *Fairbairn* lectures and demonstrations were very highly *Binnie* appreciated by the students.

For many years attempts had been made to induce anesthesia by the administration of ether through the rectum but all the methods adopted proved either inefficient or dangerous. While still in New York Dr. Sutton devoted much of his thought to the development of rectal anesthesia and succeeded in laying the foundation for the method which is today standardized and for which he does not receive sufficient credit.

Stress has been put on the love Sutton had for mechanics. This love was reflected in his surgical work. He delighted in plastic surgery. It was a real treat for him to be confronted with some horrible disfigurations and be permitted to attempt their correction. He was able to attain much by skill, attention to minute detail, unwearying patience and the characteristic optimism which he was strong enough to transmit to the patient. Optimism was a strong feature in Sutton's character and for success in plastic surgery a strong and infective optimism is a determining factor.

To me personally Dr. Sutton was of great assistance in literary work and he was good enough to contribute a chapter on 'War Surgery' to a volume published by me. In this



*John* chapter he described fully a most ingenious  
*Fairbairn* method devised by himself for the easy ex-  
*Binnie* posure and extraction of bullets under guid-  
ance of the X-ray. The utter simplicity of  
Sutton's method renders it almost 'fool proof'  
and marks its author a genius. In this chap-  
ter there is a vast amount of good material  
clearly exposed but compressed into a small  
space. The material is drawn from a very  
great number of sources—English, French,  
German, but much of it is from his own expe-  
rience gained during his service with the  
American Ambulance in France.

In June, 1917, the American Committee of  
Military Roentgenolgy adopted "the Sutton  
Localizing Method" as the standard for the  
fluoroscopic process for localizing foreign bod-  
ies in the deep tissues and it will be taught in  
the Government schools for the training of  
X-ray experts for the present war.

The instruments devised and used by Dr.  
Sutton in France have been furnished by his  
father to the U. S. Government as a pattern  
from which to manufacture them for use in the  
schools and hospitals.

When the American College of Surgeons  
was organized Walter Sutton was chosen as  
one of its chief agents in the State of Kan-  
sas. The College of Surgeons has for its aim  
the elevation of surgery and the defeat of

commercialism in its practice. A man who professed and practiced the highest professional ideals as did Sutton and who was gifted with his great executive and organizing talent could not have failed to become a powerful agent in promoting the beneficent aims of the college. To the College of Surgeons Sutton's untimely death will be a great loss.

*John  
Fairbairn  
Binnie*

Owing to his residence in Kansas Dr. Sutton was ineligible for membership in the Jackson County Medical Society but he was made an associate member of that organization. This in itself tells the opinion of him held by his colleagues in Missouri.

When the Christian Church Hospital opened its new hospital in Kansas City early in 1916 Sutton and I again became associated in one of the two surgical services of that institution. Our association was, to me at least, most pleasant and profitable but all too short. My last impression of my friend, Walter Sutton, was that of courageous cheerfulness exhibited while the hand of the grim reaper was too evidently upon him.

Sutton was a good surgeon—an ingenious and conscientious investigator, a cheerful, loyal friend, a man of very marked attainments and ability, but above all one blessed with the highest ideals and the courage to stand by and fight for them.

**Jabez N. Jackson, A.M., M.D.,  
F.A.C.S.**

Attending Surgeon Christian Church Hospital  
Kansas City, Missouri.

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In 1910 a dinner party assembled in the dining room of the Noon-Day Club in response to an invitation from Mr. J. W. Perry, who had but recently come from St. Louis to Kansas City to assume the presidency of the Southwest National Bank of Commerce. While living in St. Louis Mr. Perry had taken a most vital interest in the Orphan's Home of the church located there and as a business man was imbued with spiritual zeal for the practical application of the principles of Christianity to the service of man.

After an hour or more of delightful comradeship over an excellent dinner Mr. Perry arose to state the purpose of the meeting. In a most enthusiastic talk he recalled the principles and history of the Christian church in its development and growth. Hence it appealed to him that here in Kansas City, Missouri, the center of the greatest numerical strength and material wealth of the Christian

church in America, should be builded a great *Jabez N. Christian hospital, dedicated to Christian service of afflicted mankind, "For I was sick and you visited me."* Particular interest was manifested by Mr. R. A. Long, a wealthy lumber man, who had long since proven himself one of those, unfortunately rare, men of wealth who appreciated the sacredness of his stewardship and had spent liberally of his substance in advancing every good cause and especially those in the service of Christianity and of the Christian church.

Following the discussion a practical move to materialize the idea was made by the appointment of a committee to further consider the subject and to present concrete plans for adoption. A few weeks later a larger dinner was given at the Baltimore Hotel, attended by over one hundred guests, mostly members of the Christian church and among them many women. After a series of addresses similar to those of the first gathering the committee recommended an effort to raise a fund of \$150,000. The subscription was opened by an offer on the part of Messrs. Long, Perry and Minor to syndicate a gift of \$100,000. In a very few moments a total of about \$135,000 was subscribed by those about the banquet table. This act revealed the intense interest in the hospital idea and assured the success of the enterprise. At the same time Mr. Long,



*Jabez N. Jackson* accustomed to thinking and doing big things, became convinced that the enterprise had been planned on too small a scale. Accordingly the matter was allowed to rest on oars, so to speak, for some time. Finally, in January, 1911, a large dinner was given in the Sunday school rooms of the Independence Boulevard Christian Church, at which more than five hundred people were present, including several distinguished representatives of the Christian church from elsewhere, all the ministers of the various Christian churches of Kansas City and various church officials.

Again the subject of a Christian Church Hospital was eloquently presented and enthusiastically endorsed. Finally, Mr. Long arose amidst much applause and presented a formally prepared proposition. This was in brief that if the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars could be secured by outside contributions for the nucleus of an endowment fund he himself would give two hundred thousand dollars for the purchase of grounds and the erection of a building. He further pledged himself to the gift upon the completion of the hospital of the sum of fifty thousand dollars a year for four years on condition that a similar amount be raised by other contributions. He further stipulated that when the hospital was opened at least one-third of the service should be charity. This most gen-

erous Christian offer was received with wild *Jabez N.*  
enthusiasm and a large proportion of the out- *Jackson*  
side one hundred fifty thousand dollars was  
immediately pledged by those present at the  
dinner. Within but a few weeks the remaining  
pledges were even slightly over subscribed  
and thereby the project was assured.

Thus was marked an epoch in the progress of the cause of Christianity in this community and should set a stimulating example for all denominations of Christian activity.

To administer this hospital a Board of Directors was chosen consisting of Mr. R. A. Long, chairman; Mr. J. W. Perry, president; Rev. Dr. L. J. Marshall, secretary; Mr. J. D. Eubank, treasurer; and Messrs. Langston Bacon, C. H. Hill, Thomas Ridge, and Dr. Burris Jenkins. Finally, a site was chosen, consisting of a full block of ground lying west of the Paseo Boulevard and extending from Twenty-sixth to Twenty-seventh Streets. This site is on one of the high points of Kansas City's development. On this site was builded a magnificent hospital building, costing when complete practically two hundred fifty thousand dollars, which, with the site and equipment, represented an expenditure of about three hundred fifty thousand dollars, a large increase in expenditure beyond the original promise of Mr. Long, and an added tribute to

*Jabez N. Jackson* the generosity of the giver and the breadth of his vision. Back of this building stands the endowment fund of one hundred fifty thousand dollars. This initial building has a capacity of one hundred thirty beds. This hospital was finally completed and formally dedicated to service on April 9, 1916, before a large audience on the hospital grounds with a most impressive and inspiring service.

The full measure of a man is found neither in his stature, not even in his mentality. Real manhood is measured by character, which is the expression of lofty ideals and steadfast devotion to their realization. So with institutions. Magnificence of architecture, imposing buildings, complete equipment for service, all are factors of the institution but its real service to mankind is determined by its ideals and purposes.

Accordingly, in selecting the medical staff of the hospital the board determined that fitness in qualification and character must be the sole criterion of selection. Church affiliations, personal friendship and favor must be disregarded. When the name of a physician for any department was suggested for consideration two questions must first be answered. First, is he the best man or as good as any available from the standpoint of professional capacity; second, is he a man of Christian character whose methods are honest, free from

selfishness and commercialism, and devoted *Jabez N. Jackson* primarily to the interests and welfare of his patients. With these standards to measure by the selection was determined. In our opinion no higher compliment was ever paid Dr. Walter S. Sutton than that paid him by the Board of Directors of the Christian Church Hospital when he was unanimously elected for membership on the surgical staff of this institution. It implied the recognition of his high professional attainments and his high moral character as well. And it may be said here that this nomination was enthusiastically endorsed by every one of Walter's fellows on the staff.

For by those who knew him best he was not only beloved for his many traits of kindly fellowship and respected for his integrity and cleanness of professional conduct, but he was idealized in the universal recognition of his professional capacity. Walter Sutton was almost universally looked to as the coming surgeon of Kansas City and as such the fellows of the medical staff of the Christian Church Hospital welcomed him among them with both pride and love. Into the work he entered with zeal and intelligence, and on him with confidence his associates leaned for aid in the solution of many vexatious problems in organization. He was appointed to the most important staff committees, particularly those re-



*Jabez N. Jackson* quiring real work and he never failed or hesitated. His time, his abilities, his enthusiasm were always available. In every new organization the early days are full of troubles, problems upon whose prompt and proper solution depend much of the final success and character of the institution. And from no one did the new hospital receive more valuable assistance than from Dr. Walter Sutton. Morning, noon or night, early, late and ever, he was ready to do anything needed and did all well. And remarkably he accomplished without exciting opposition or arousing jealousy and yet he accomplished quickly and correctly. The shock of his untimely death struck hard in many places for he had many friends and many loved friends; but nowhere was the loss felt more than among his associates of the Christian Church Hospital for here we lost not only a much loved friend, not only a most valuable worker in our hospital problems, but we lost in him the one to whom we looked forward as the keystone of the future.

**John G. Hayden, A. B., M. D.,  
F. A. C. S.**

Assistant Professor of Surgery,  
University of Kansas.

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The social and professional relations that have existed between Dr. Walter Stanborough Sutton and myself began in 1898 at the University of Kansas, he at that time being an upper classman and my instructor in entomology.

Our relations were again renewed in Kansas City in 1909 when we casually met and each found that the other had come here to practice surgery. At the time of this meeting we decided to become office associates and it was my good fortune to enjoy this association with Walter up to the time of his death. During this time I have seen his work and have been with him in much of it. In the work in which I have been associated with him, I have always had a feeling of security that the work would be well done and I have never been disappointed.

We all know of individuals proficient in some one thing. Walter excelled in all his

*John G. Hayden* fields of labor. His optimism, patience and mechanical skill; his knowledge of physiology, pathology and surgical principles fitted him for an orthopedist and plastic surgeon of the highest type. He had a mental and manual co-ordination rarely seen. His well merited confidence in himself and in his ability to meet emergencies and accomplish his desired ends was not the least of his admirable traits. No minutiae of detail were too arduous for him. No problem daunted him. His perspective was clear. The detailed precision of his work sure. His results a joy. His work was the work of an artist combined with rare skill and surgical judgment.

As an educator, those of us who have heard him and those who have read his writings, recognized in Walter a marvel. His broad information, intellect and experience furnished the basis for this work. Each case was carefully considered for its instructive value. His rare descriptive powers supplemented by his lantern slides, instructed, inspired and delighted his audiences.

Possessing a mind unusually retentive he was able at all times to discuss in a masterly way many diverse subjects. He knew agriculture and stock raising; mechanics and electricity; he was a draftsman, a photographer, an inventor, a profound scientist, a deep think-

er, a great surgeon and with all a loyal friend and delightful companion. *John G. Hayden*

Pecuniary remuneration was always of secondary consideration to him. His high professional ideals forbade him refuse any worthy individual his most painstaking services. It was not a question of how much money he made but a question of how much good he was doing.

To his immediate family and relatives I can unreservedly say that Walter's death has been felt over a wider area than they probably realize and in his absence from the ranks of the medical and surgical profession we have lost a "producer" of international reputation and authority.





## EDITORIALS.



## Dr. Walter Stanborough Sutton.

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To those who knew Dr. Walter S. Sutton he was much more than one of the coming surgeons of the west. He was the embodiment of wholesome vitality. He liked to work, and he took immense pleasure in human companionship. His really extraordinary skill in his profession, with its background of thorough training, had brought him to the front in Kansas City. But he was always ready to give the same conscientious devotion to a case that promised no fee that he gave to his most prominent patients. Such a life, cut short by premature death, though it may be, lives on in its inspiration to others.—*Kansas City Star*, November 11, 1916.



## Dr. Walter Stanborough Sutton.

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The Jackson County Medical Society has lost one of its most useful associate members. Societies expect to lose older members who have built the foundations but they can ill afford to lose potential characters. Walter Sutton possessed an unlimited capacity for constructive progress. He seemed to combine a rare ability to sift out the true values of problems which his colleagues and friends constantly brought to him. He seemed to enjoy this opportunity of helping his contemporaries to better ideas and material things. His counsel was always encouraging and his judgment of future values was remarkable.

His surgical character and ability was such that he was awarded with an unusual confidence.

He was extremely companionable and yet this quality seemed based upon finer lines than mere good fellowship. Someone has already said that one only needed to meet Walter Sutton to want to know him better and one may add that the better you became acquainted

with him the more colossal seemed his resourcefulness and capacity. *Walter Stanborough Sutton*

Among our membership Walter Sutton was not only regarded as a future surgical leader but more significantly as a large factor in the future development of medicine in the Middle West.

We sincerely mourn his passing and have a faith that his example of mental vigor and character will be an inspiration to others.—  
Bulletin Jackson County Medical Society, November 18, 1916.

## Dr. Walter Stanborough Sutton.

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The death of Dr. Sutton came as a terrible shock to all his many friends among the membership of The Medical Association of the Southwest. Almost from the beginning of the organization Dr. Sutton has always been ready to assist in every way he could in advancing the interests of the Medical Association of the Southwest as well as every other branch of organized activity. His was a lovable nature, always ready to be of service to anyone needing his help. A long visit by the writer with him soon after his tour of duty with an American hospital unit in northern France gave an insight into his character that could have been gained in no other way. By nature a splendid student and gifted with a charming personality, it was no wonder that for a man of his years he had made rapid progress in his chosen profession.

It seems an irony of fate that he should have been taken by appendicitis, and yet such was the case following an operation in the Christian Hospital of Kansas City of which staff he was a member.

He was an honored member of the *Walter*  
Jackson County Medical Society, the Missouri *Stanborough*  
State, and the Medical Association of the *Sutton*  
Southwest.

We shall never forget him and can only hope that the splendid example he has left may be the inspiration which shall cause some other young man to try to follow in his footsteps.—S. W. Journal of Medicine and Surgery, November, 1916.



## Dr. Walter Sutton.

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At the Kansas City Meeting in October, 1916, Dr. Walter S. Sutton gave a most interesting talk on "Spondylolisthesis," in connection with some Roentgen ray lantern slides, which is published elsewhere in this issue.

Ten days following the meeting Dr. Sutton was operated on for an attack of acute appendicitis, from which he did not recover.

Dr. G. Wilse Robinson, the president of the Tri-State Society, has sent us the following Obituary, which it is fitting to publish with the last contribution that Dr. Sutton made to medicine:

Dr. Walter Stanborough Sutton, widely known Kansas City surgeon, who distinguished himself through his effective work in the treatment of wounded soldiers in the European war, died Nov. 10, 1916, at the Christian Church Hospital following an operation.

In February, 1915, Dr. Sutton was called to France by the staff in charge of the Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney Hospital unit in Juilly, France, where he served five months, three months in active work in field hospitals and two months in charge of a hospital.

Prior to this war soldiers who had received broken legs or arms were taken to hospitals; the wounds required all the physicians' attention. Dr. Sutton brought back a vast fund of technical information about a method of using weights and pulleys, whereby legs were straightened and set at the same time the wounds were treated. *Dr. Walter Sutton*

Dr. Sutton was 39 years old. He received his education in medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York and served four years as interne in the Roosevelt Hospital. He had been practicing in Kansas City since that time. He was a member of the faculty of the University of Kansas in the department of surgery. He was on the staff at the Bell Memorial Hospital in Rosedale and the Christian Church Hospital.

While at the University of Kansas he was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi, honorary scientific fraternity. His work attracted wide attention, and through it he received a fellowship in zoology in Columbia University, New York. He was the first student west of the Mississippi River to receive such recognition.

Dr. Sutton was a member of the American College of Surgeons, American Medical Society, Kansas State Medical Society and the Wyandotte County and Jackson County Medi-

*Dr. Walter* cal Societies, and vice-president of the Medical  
*Sutton* Association of the Southwest.

The Chicago Medical Recorder, February, 1917.

## RESOLUTIONS.





## In Memory of Dr. Walter S. Sutton

Kansas State Board of Administration.

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“And the King said unto his servants, Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?”

Hawthorne has commented upon the singular fact that “A man’s death often seems to give people a truer idea of his character than they have ever possessed while he was living and acting among them.” It was so with the man we mourn. The life of Dr. Sutton was so simple, so modest, so unostentatious, that only his intimate associates really realized what a truly great man he was. But now that his attainments and achievements have been revealed all know that “a prince and a great man,” indeed, has fallen. He was a great surgeon and a great soul. He combined the strength of the giant oak with the modesty and tenderness of the violet. He was a master in his great profession. His loss to the State is irreparable. Bell Memorial Hospital, especially, whose faculty Dr. Sutton adorned with his genial personality and enriched with his wonderful ability and skill, is

*Resolutions* bereft of one of its staunchest friends. To his loved ones who sit amid the shadows of a great grief the Board of Administration extends sincerest sympathy.

E. W. HOCH,  
*For the Board.*

December 12, 1916.

## The School of Medicine of the University of Kansas

Rosedale, Kansas

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The Council, Faculty and Students of the School of Medicine of the University of Kansas have to record with the very deepest regret the irreparable loss sustained on November the tenth, Nineteen Hundred and Sixteen by the death of one of its most valued members, Dr. Walter Stanborough Sutton. His fearless conscientiousness, his breadth of character and his recognized ability in the foremost ranks of his profession made him a guiding inspiration in the council of the School of Medicine, as a teacher of Surgery, as a colleague and as a man.

His life was all too short, and he can ill be spared, but his memory will live on imperishably in the School of Medicine of the University of Kansas as a guide to the highest ideals he had initiated, and in the future of the Institution he had done so much to develop.

That man only is dead whose work and



**Resolutions** words are dead and in this relation the memory of Dr. Walter Stanborough Sutton in the University of Kansas is assured of immortality.

The sincerest sympathies of the Faculty and Students with his bereaved family are hereby recorded.

## The Wyandotte Medical Society.

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The Wyandotte County Medical Society has to record with the deepest regret the irreparable loss sustained by the death on November tenth, Nineteen Hundred and Sixteen, of one of its most valued members, Dr. Walter Stanborough Sutton.

He was one of the most unselfish, charitable, fearlessly conscientious and humane of men, and was equipped with a well poised mind. His life and work were a guiding inspiration to all who were associated with him.

His keen, analytical brain and his splendid education, developed as it was by his having grasped every opportunity for study, had formed a basis for his epoch making researches in the field of biology and in the realms of his chosen specialty, Surgery.

His absence will be keenly felt but his memory will live on imperishably in the Wyandotte County Medical Society, whose deepest sympathies with his bereaved relatives are here recorded.

December 12, 1916.

## Medical Staff Christian Church Hospital.

Kansas City, Missouri.

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The Medical Staff of the Christian Church Hospital has suffered an irreparable loss in the death of one of its members, Dr. Walter Stanborough Sutton.

We, the members of the Staff who worked with him as friends and colleagues, feel deeply the grief occasioned by this loss. His modest, genial personality had made a personal friend of each of us. We admired him for his altruism and his devotion to high principles.

We are glad that his family and friends can console themselves in the knowledge that his original work in the fields of Biology, Surgery and Orthopedics had already gained for him both national and international recognition and that his painstaking, efficient, work in the practice of surgery and his dependable regard for the welfare of others had already won the confidence of those who knew him.

His ability, ingenuity, energy, reliability and strength of purpose made him invaluable

in the organization of this institution and his loss hinders us in our efforts in its behalf. His work for the institution though incomplete will have a lasting influence on its future, however, for his memory will be an inspiration to both the Board of Directors and the Staff in their endeavor to build up a clinic such as he had wished to see established. In working toward this end we wish to provide in this Hospital a memorial which shall bear his name and perpetuate the memory of the splendid character, high ideals and trained ability which his life exemplified. *Resolutions*

To his bereaved family we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

## Christian Church Hospital Association

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WHEREAS, Sickness and death have removed from us and our institution our beloved friend and physician, Dr. Walter S. Sutton, therefore, be it resolved:

First, That in the death of Dr. Sutton we, as members of the Hospital Board of Directors, feel a very great personal loss and a deep and sincere sense of bereavement;

Second, We feel that our institution and the medical fraternity have lost a most valuable and faithful servant;

Third, We feel that in the death of Dr. Sutton suffering humanity has experienced a loss of a genuinely sympathetic friend who sought by every means within his power to heal the hurt which the ravage of war, misfortune and disease lays so heavily upon mankind;

Fourth, Be it further resolved that we extend to the family of Dr. Sutton our deepest sympathy and do invoke the blessings of God upon them in this dark hour of their very great sorrow; and that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family, and also be spread upon the record of our institution.



## Academy of Medicine of Kansas City, Mo.

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The Kansas City Academy of Medicine on the evening of November 10th, 1916, suffered a serious loss occasioned by the death of one of its most valuable members, Dr. Walter Stanborough Sutton, born in 1877, A. B. and A. M. of the University of Kansas, M. D., Columbia, New York, 1907, Associate Professor of Surgery, University of Kansas, Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and contributor of epoch making works in the field of biology and in the realm of his chosen specialty, Surgery. A man of the highest integrity, unbounded energy, fearless conscientiousness, with a rare sense of human fraternal kindness which provided endless friendships and respect and professional success; equipped with a well poised, scientifically analytic mind and a splendid education, his career had become replete with honor and his untimely death can only be sustained with the deepest regret and with the sincerest sympathy with his bereaved family.

The Society cannot forget, nor can it

*Resolutions* ever forego, the light, uplift and idealism he represented.

Those only are dead whose works are dead, and in this sense in the Kansas City Academy of Medicine Dr. Walter Stanborough Sutton is assured of immortality.

November 16, 1916.

# Kansas City Alumnae Association

University of Kansas

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Address at annual meeting of Kansas City Alumni Association of the University of Kansas, on March 24, 1917, by Maurice L. Alden, '95, of Kansas City, Kansas.

It is but fitting that we should pause in our exuberance of good spirit to pay our respect and honor to those who, since our last gathering of a similar nature, have passed out to the great beyond.

Walter S. Sutton, of the class of 1900, died on the 10th of November, last. His death was a great shock, and his loss is mourned, not only in the United States, but in France where he gave so much of his time and talents in alleviating the suffering of her wounded soldiers.

Walter S. Sutton was born in Utica, New York, April 5, 1877. When he was ten years old he moved with his parents to a ranch in Russell County, Kansas, where he lived for nine years. He attended the grade and high schools in the city of Russell. It was in the fall of 1896 that he entered the Kansas Uni-

*Resolutions* versity in the School of Engineering, but after completing one year of that course he changed to the School of Arts, from which he graduated in 1900 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He was a splendid student, and the fact that he was chosen a member of the scholarship fraternity of Phi Beta Kappa and the scientific fraternity of Sigma Xi bears testimony to the high character of his scholarship.

For a year after his graduation he did post-graduate work at the University of Kansas, at the same time acting as graduate assistant in zoology, and in 1901 received the degree of Master of Arts. He then went to Columbia University, New York, where he remained a year, doing post-graduate work in zoology, winning a fellowship in that subject. He then entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City, from which he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1907, and at once commenced a term of hospital service in Roosevelt Hospital, New York. In August, 1909, he began the practice of his profession in Kansas City. He was made assistant professor of surgery in the Kansas University. In 1911 he was made associate professor of surgery. In February, 1915, he was invited to become a member of the surgical staff of the Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney Unit of the American Ambulance Hospital in France. He remained over there nearly six

months, the last two months of which he was chief of the surgical staff of the hospital. *Resolutions*

His experience in the war zone had been a wonderful experience for him. He was regarded as one of the best informed men on war surgery. He contributed a chapter on War Surgery to Dr. John F. Binnie's book on Surgery, and only a few days before his death he had entered into a contract with a publishing house to write a book on surgery.

In November 7th, after a strenuous day, he was taken with an acute attack of appendicitis, and an immediate operation became necessary. He lived until 9:30 p. m., November 10th, when he passed away.

It is seldom, indeed, that such high tributes are paid at the death of one so young as were paid at Walter's funeral services. Olin Templin, Samuel W. Williston, S. J. Crumbine, J. W. Perry, and others all delivered eloquent eulogies.

He had an inventive mind, and were it appropriate so to do upon this occasion I could tell you of many of his inventions. Suffice it to say his life and his genius have left their stamp of improvement in many different things in mechanics and in surgery. We who were here at the Kansas University banquet last year remember the prominent part Walter took in contributing to the enjoyment of the occasion. We miss him tonight. We have



*Resolutions* missed him ever since his death. We will miss him in the years to come. He was a prince of good fellows, jolly, good natured, witty, entertaining. He stood at the top of his profession. In his death the Kansas City Alumni Association of Kansas University has lost one of its most valued members.

I offer and move the adoption of the following resolution:

“Resolved, That we, the Alumni of Kansas University, at its annual Kansas City banquet, upon this 24th day of March, 1917, deeply deplore the untimely death upon November 10, 1916, of our honored member, Walter S. Sutton; that in his death Kansas University and the nation have sustained a great loss.

“Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to his parents.”

## Publications.

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- 1900—The Spermatogonial Divisions of *Brachystola Magna*. Kan. Univ. Quar. vol. 9, No. 2.
- 1902—Morphology of the Chromosome Group in *Brachystola Magna*. Biol. Bull. vol. 4.
- 1903—The Chromosomes in Heredity. Biol. Bull. vol. 4.
- 1910—A new incision for Epithelioma of the upper and lower lips of the same side. Jour. Am. Med. Ass'n. Aug. 20, 1910, vol. LV p. 647.
- 1910—The Proposed Fistulo-Enterostomy of Von Stubenrauch. Annals of Surgery, Sept., 1910.
- 1911—A Speedometer for Proctoclysis Apparatus. Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics, Feb., 1911, p. 166-167.
- 1911—A handy pocket case for blood pipettes and solutions. Jour. Am. Med. Ass'n. March 11, 1911, vol. LVI p. 737-738.
- 1914—Anesthesia by Colonic Absorption of Ether (in Anesthesia, Gwathmey).
- 1916—War Surgery (in Operative Surgery, Binnie).



## ADDENDA.





## Edward Holman Skinner, M. D.

Captain M. R. C., U. S. A.; Commanding Officer Kansas City  
Military School of Roentgenology; Member American  
Roentgen Ray Society; British Roentgen Society,  
Societe de Radiology de Paris.

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Any chronicle of Walter Sutton would be incomplete without some mention of his application of a comprehensive knowledge of the allied sciences and mechanical arts to his surgical practice, teaching methods and inventive proclivities. To catalogue grimly these practical proclivities would rob one of the gentle art of friendly praise.

Walter's practice of collecting lantern slides for teaching purposes assumed large proportions. His collection fills twenty-four filing sections and numbers about six thousand slides, of which about two thousand are actual originals—pictorial case histories, characteristic roentgenograms of normal and pathological conditions, with many copies of pictures from standard surgical and orthopedic text books. They were labeled individually by him, so that there was no confusion in assembling them as “the *Walter S. Sutton Lantern Slide Collec-*

*Edward Holman Skinner* tion." This collection will in all probability be presented to the University of Kansas for use in teaching in the Orthopedic Department of its School of Medicine at Bell Memorial Hospital in Rosedale, where much of it was prepared and where Walter used it in connection with his work as professor of surgery.

Walter's photographic propensities led him into all manner of extravagances in special lenses, Graflex cameras, color photography, Cooper-Hewitt illumination, etc. The collection of color photographs which he made in France and used later in his lectures is still intact. His very latest pet camera consisted of an English Rayflex camera box, a fine German lens and a backing for French color plates of lantern slide size.

Mention has undoubtedly been made some other place of Walter's (a) inventions for rectal anaesthesia, (b) his method of making plaster models for orthopedic casts and jackets, (c) his celluloid splints for fractured joints, (d) his original instruments for bolting oblique fractures in long bones, (e) his experiments in continuous thermal records of patients.

Owing to the recent military demands for Sutton's Localizing Instruments there is reason for some specific biographic information upon these.

These instruments are used to accurately

localize foreign bodies such as bullets and shell fragments, with the fluoroscopic X-ray screen, that they may be easily removed by the operating surgeon. *Edward Holman Skinner*

The following excerpt from the *American Journal of Roentgenology*, July, 1917, Vol. 14, No. 7, may serve to describe this invention:

**"THE SUTTON METHOD OF FOREIGN BODY LOCALIZATION."**

A simple method of localization especially applicable to war surgery was developed by the late Dr. Walter S. Sutton, of Kansas City, while in charge of the American Hospital No. 2, at Juilly, France, in the spring and summer of 1915.

The Sutton method is so ingenious and simple that I take this opportunity of bringing it to the wider attention of American roentgenologists. Sutton first described it in a chapter upon War Surgery in *Binnie's Operative Surgery* (Seventh Edition, 1916).

In the above mentioned article in *Binnie's Operative Surgery* Sutton describes his method of localization as follows:

"This method was suggested by that of Wullyamoz for removing foreign bodies from the brain. In addition to the tube and screen, a special instrument is required which, however, is of small cost and may even be improvised. The construction is sufficiently clearly shown in Fig. A. The procedure is as follows:

"Having located the shadow of the foreign body by means of the axial ray upon a large screen, firmly supported about six inches above the surface of the part examined, the surface is painted with iodine, cocainized and a small skin incision made in the centre of the shadow. The special canula bearing the blunt or sharp trocar, as circumstances may indicate, and held by a strong clamp at right angles, is then entered

*Edward  
Holman  
Skinner*

through the skin incision. The room is then darkened and under the guidance of the x-ray the instrument is driven through the tissues (Fig. B). As long as the point is advancing straight toward the anode (and hence toward the foreign body) the shadow of the point will be hidden by the shadow of the upper portion of the instrument.

"When the trocar strikes the foreign body, the patient invariably complains of a sharp pain. Contact is then verified by slight waving movements of the point of the trocar which can be made to cause the foreign body shadow to describe a circular excursion on the screen.

"The current is now cut off, the screen removed and the room lighted while the operator continues to hold the trocar immovable. Next the trocar is withdrawn from the canula and one of the small hooked piano-wire indicators inserted in its place. Holding the hook of the latter against the foreign body, the canula is withdrawn and the wire snipped off  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch above the skin. Over this a fairly thick dressing is applied. If other foreign bodies are present, each may be localized in the same way. On the operating table each indicator may be readily followed to the corresponding foreign body. The particular advantages of this method are:

"1. Operations may almost always be done under local anesthesia.

"2. Changes in the position of limbs or body do not vitiate the result.

"3. There are no calculations to introduce possible mathematical errors.

"4. The localization may be carried out aseptically without sterilizing the hands."

"The simplicity of this method is at once apparent. No mechanical devices, no instruments of calibration, no mathematical equations, no exact relation of tube to screen, no measuring of tube distance, no calculation after painstaking estimation of a shifting shadow are required. The hooked piano-wire always leads to the foreign body, even if surgical incisions with the retraction of tissues do alter the skin markings.

The one great objection to all methods of localization by calculation, calibration, mensuration or instrumentation is that the skin markings and landmarks are disturbed as soon as the surgical incision is made.



Furthermore, the surgeon frequently finds it desirable or necessary to make his incision with the patient in a position totally different from that in which the roentgen localization was made. *Edward Holman Skinner*

Another great advantage of Suttons' method is the rapidity with which many localizations in the same individual or in successive cases can be made. When Dr. Sutton took charge of this American Ambulance, No. 2, at Juilly, he found inadequate roentgen apparatus, no plates, and only a Belgian orderly in charge. He immediately set to devising a method of localization which required only the simplest instruments, a screen, a tube and an old coil. He said that he would make fifteen or twenty localizations, go to the operating room to remove the bullets, shrapnel or whatever was at the end of the hooked piano-wire and by that time the tube was cool enough to permit exploring for another batch of bullets.

In war surgery the roentgenologist will not have the refinements of civil roentgen practice constantly at hand. Supplies may be delayed, plates become water-soaked or even altogether unobtainable. Methods which require stereoscopic plates or even plain plates become utterly useless."

At the recent conference of Military Roentgenologists held at Cornell Medical College, New York City, June 11-25, 1917, at the orders of the Surgeon-General, U. S. Army, these localizing instruments of Dr. Sutton were adopted as the first of three methods of X-ray localization which should be taught every Military Roentgenologist at the X-ray schools for medical officers which the Surgeon-General has established at New York, Richmond, Philadel-



*Edward* phia, Chicago, Los Angeles and Kansas City.  
*Holman* Every Base Hospital Unit will now be supplied  
*Skinner* with the Sutton instruments.

Walter Sutton had a store of general and scientific information upon various subjects and his ability to apply this information to his practice, his teaching and his pleasure was startling. His knowledge of the theory and the practice of the X-ray was constantly exercised. His photographic proclivities were applied to his work in all manner of ways. His mechanical genius has been described by others, but it came in practice in so many ingenious ways, that among his associates in medical and surgical practice his advice was sought upon problems which ordinarily seek the advice of specialists.

He was, among other things, familiar with engines, machinery, plumbing, sterilizing apparatus, automatic thermometers, lighting systems, the lathe, the camera with its multiplicity of lenses, photographic chemistry, color photography, lantern slide technique, and stereoscopic projection. And when I note these varied items, it is not to infer an ordinary acquaintance, but an intimate knowledge of their theory and practice.

## Sigma Chi.

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Whereas, *Doctor Walter S. Sutton* was a beloved and honored member of *The Kansas City Alumni Chapter of Sigma Chi*, and

Whereas, he has been removed from our midst by the all powerful hand of Him on High, and

Whereas, by his taking away we, his friends and brothers, have been deprived of the companionship of a beloved brother whose ability in his chosen profession we admired, whose honor and high ideals we respected and whose personality we loved, therefore, be it

Resolved: That The Kansas City Alumni Chapter of the Sigma Chi Fraternity, in annual meeting assembled, do hereby express our profound sorrow that he has passed from among us at the command of Him whom we must all obey, that we recognize the loss which the membership of the fraternity, this chapter and the community in general has suffered; and be it further

Resolved: That we express to his family through this medium our profound sympathy and assure them that their loss is our loss as

*Sigma Chi* well and that the cheery personality and sane counsel will be always missed from among us. Be it further

Resolved: That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the Chapter, that a copy be sent to the Sigma Chi Quarterly for publication, and that a copy be sent to his family.

KANSAS CITY ALUMNI CHAPTER,  
SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY.

Kansas City, Missouri.

July 2nd, 1917.









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